

Dr M: Ministers and kin should declare assets to MACC
The Malaysian Insider
January 23 , 2012
By Yow Hong Chieh

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 23 — Ministers as well as their families should declare all assets to graftbusters in the interest of honesty and transparency, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"It's good to declare (assets) to a body that doesn't have any political interests and is neutral," Bernama quoted him as saying at a Chinese New Year gathering organised by MCA here.

Cabinet ministers currently declare their assets to the prime minister and not the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC), as has been suggested by the national anti-graft body's advisory board.

But Dr Mahathir (picture) said such declarations should not be made public as doing so would invite speculation and slander.

"If made known to the public, all sorts of allegations and slander will arise. We do not want that to happen. The public will then only pay attention to that and not national unity and development," he said.

He added that ministers who refused to declare their assets to the MACC should resign or be sacked.

Last Wednesday, MACC advisory board chairman Puan Sri Zaitun Zawiyah Puteh disclosed that the prime minister had agreed in principle to make full asset declaration mandatory for spouses and family members of Cabinet ministers.

De facto law minister Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz, however, has said only ministers and not their families should have to declare their assets.

MACC's announcement came just days after Chief Justice Tan Sri Arifin Zakaria said judges will soon be required to declare their assets in order to ensure judicial integrity.

Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng and state executive committee members had earlier declared their assets as part of Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) pledge to remain accountable to the public.

The Malaysian Insider
Copyright © 2012 The Malaysian Insider
Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dr-m-ministers-and-kin-should-declare-assets-to-macc/>