

Government Sees The Need To Work With International Community To Combat Corruption
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian government recognises the need for cooperation with the international community in pursuing anti-corruption efforts within the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He pointed out that fighting corruption was now an integral part of the government's ambitious plans to transform the government and accelerate economic growth in Malaysia.

He said the Malaysian government had made fighting corruption one of its priorities by including it as a National Key Result Area (NKRA) under the Government Transformation Programme GTP.

Najib said this in his welcoming message in conjunction with the 6th International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) annual general meeting and conference, which will be held here from tomorrow to Oct 7.

Themed 'UNCAC Chapter VI: Technical Assistance and Information Exchange', the forum at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre would be attended by over 1,000 anti-corruption officers from more than 100 countries and would be focussing on technical assistance and information exchange.

Najib said corruption was a threat to national security which jeopardized not only the country's financial well-being but also its socio-economic development efforts and most importantly, the moral fabric of the nation in the longer term.

"Corruption is indeed a serious threat that we have been trying to combat for a very long time. Despite the fact that it is condemned by the public, a crime prohibited by law, yet it still remains widespread in many societies," he said.

Najib said the IAACA conference would be a great event for participants from different anti-corruption law enforcement agencies, experts and academicians from international anti-corruption organisations to discuss significant issues such as training, technical assistance, collection, exchange and analysis of information on corruption.

"Hopefully from this conference, Malaysia will have the opportunity not only to share its experience but also to learn from others in its quest to meet the nation's goals," he said.

This biggest conference among anti-corruption agencies from throughout the world will cover five key areas of workshops, intensely on anti-corruption efforts namely prevention, capacity building, operation, investigation and legal framework.

Speakers at the conference include the President of the European Partners Against Corruption (EPAC) Martin Kreutner of Austria, Director-General of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) Giovanni Kessler, Malaysia's Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Idris Jala and several others from the international police organisation (Interpol).

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