

**Corruption Extends Far Beyond Public Service Officials, Says Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- Corruption and corrupt behavior extends far beyond the abuse of power by those serving in government and the public service, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

He said, if corruption was viewed as truly unethical and immoral behaviour, it could not be stopped just by looking at the public officials and the politicians who abuse their power, but must go beyond that.

"Often when people speak of 'corruption', the first thing that often springs to their mind relates to the abuse of power by those serving in the government and public service.

"What is often neglected however is the fact that corruption extends far beyond that sphere. What should be disconcerting to us all is how corruption and corrupt behavior is entangled deep within the moral fabric of all societies," he said.

The prime minister said this when officiating at the 6th International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) Conference, here Thursday.

Present were IAACA President Professor Cao Jianming, Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail and Chief Commissioner of Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Datuk Seri Abu Kassim Mohamed.

Najib said that understanding the social norms and values which underpinned a given society played a critical role in dealing with the problem of corruption.

He quoted Plato's suggestion that a strong sense of duty would help in preventing corruption and that cultivating these values would not be an easy task.

"The importance of cultivating the appropriate social norms and values therefore are critical for the war against corruption. How people behave -- and the decisions that inform this

behavior -- often depends on their perception of others in their social environment," said Najib.

Thus, he said, it was critical for people in positions of power and authority to exemplify the values they wished their constituents would follow.

"This makes the behaviour of those in positions of leadership, be it in politics, government, business, civil society, education and perhaps most critically, the home, especially important in instilling the right values and basics of ethical conducts," Najib said.

On the efforts to fight corruption, Najib said, above what the country is continuously doing, Malaysia must look at the bigger picture to see how it can instill a natural abhorrence of corruption into the very conscience of society.

"Indeed there is strong evidence to suggest that in societies that have managed to reduce corrupt behaviour, the reliance is to a great extent dependent on entrenched codes of behaviour and a strong civic consciousness as opposed to purely legal deterrents or financial incentives.

"This forces our attention on to the ethics, norms and values which prevail in our society and in different societies," Najib said.

Touching on Malaysia's anti-corruption framework, Najib said, "we have been cognizant to the threats posed by corruption and corrupt behaviour since the earliest days of the Federation.

"In 1952, the High Commissioner for the Federation of Malaysia set up a Commission of Enquiry into the Integrity of the Public Service with a particular focus on incidences of corruption," he added. He said the most recent is the establishment of the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) in 2009.

Meanwhile, the relentless battle against corruption continues as it was made one of the National Key Result Areas (NKRA), which is part of the national Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) launched in 2009, he said.

The three-day conference, with the theme "United Nations Convention Against Corruptions (UNCAC) Chapter VI: Technical Assistance and Information Exchange," attended by 1,000

anti-corruption officials and agencies from more than 100 countries, is organised to beef up the fight against cross-border corruption. In the same event, Prime Minister announced the RM1 million contribution from the Malaysian government to the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) for its future endeavours. He also commended the launching of the world's first international Master Programme in Anti-Corruption Study, which was recently launched by the IACA, of which one of its seven modules will be conducted in the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Academy (MACA) here.

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