

UN: Malaysia is serious about fighting corruption

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TOP POLITICAL COMMITMENT: World body says Najib has given it priority

KUALA LUMPUR: A SENIOR official from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has commended Malaysia's "serious efforts" at tackling corruption.

Dmitri Vlassis, who is the United Nations secretary-general's representative and UNODC's corruption and economic crime branch chief, said the country had demonstrated speed and efficiency in meeting the initial implementation review process which allows the UN to monitor corrupt activities here.

"Malaysia is currently under review of the UN, by valuers from the Philippines and Kenya, and there are strong indications that your country takes this process very seriously," he said at the 6th annual conference and general meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA).

Vlassis said the nation's leadership, under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, played an integral role in efforts to weed out corrupt individuals.

"I was honoured to meet the prime minister, who came off as someone very serious about the priority he has given to fighting corruption. I cannot stress how important political commitment from the top is in order to achieve measurable results."

Vlassis acknowledged the challenges faced by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and other agencies, but said they needed to catch up quickly to gather under one roof and cooperate.

"We are talking about development that is resource sensitive, labour intensive and requires very specialised, yet diverse, skills in order to work together."

Vlassis said the conference was an ideal platform for participants from 120 countries to foster international cooperation in ending corruption.

IAACA vice-president Dr Eduardo Vetere also acknowledged the seriousness of the government in fighting corruption, reports Bernama. He said Malaysia was doing well in its initiative to prevent and reduce corruption by creating a National Key Result Area (NKRA) on corruption in its government transformation plan.

Giving the issue top priority, he said, indicated the government's serious engagement.

He said foremost in fighting graft was getting full support from the public, besides having honest policemen and good judges.

"If I am an ordinary citizen and I know something related to corruption and fail to report to the police, it is impossible to tackle the issue," noted Vetere.

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