

**BN Manifesto: Transparency Main Focus In Fight Against Corruption - Law Lecturer
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 9 (Bernama) -- Transparency in the prosecution of each corruption case as spelt out in the Barisan Nasional's (BN) manifesto will create a country free from corruption and cronyism, said Universiti Teknologi Mara Law Faculty lecturer, Associate Professor Dr Zaiton Hamin.

She said the government's effort in enhancing the jurisdiction of anti-corruption officers gave the people stronger confidence in the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

The BN manifesto tabled by its chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on Saturday had 17 highlights, including transparency in government procurement procedures by putting the contracts in the public domain as well as expediting the Auditor-General's Report.

The BN pledged to give powers to the MACC through the setting of the MACC Service Commission, which would be responsible for the service and recruitment of staff as well as promotion of the MACC head and senior officers to higher grades.

Prof Zaiton also refuted allegations by the opposition that the agency only investigated and charged minor corruption cases and did not focus on bigger ones.

"Before this, I interviewed MACC on the matter, and they do investigate cases involving notable figures. So I hope before they highlight a certain case, they carry out a thorough investigation," she told Bernama.

Meanwhile, political analyst, Associate Professor Datuk Zainal Abidin Borhan said the policy presented by BN was seen as a continuing commitment to fight corruption with improvements to be implemented in the next five years.

He said what was presented by the Prime Minister was based on the views of the people that corruption should be weeded out from young.

Zainal Abidin, who is also Universiti Malaya Malay Studies Academy director, said BN's manifesto in wanting to eradicate cronyism in government tender offers as alleged by the opposition could raise the level integrity in governmental institutions.

"In the next five years, all tenders and contracts will be announced in public so that there will be no allegations that they are being offered to certain groups only," he said.

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