

## **NACP to help separate govt administration from political influence - Mahathir**

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PUTRAJAYA, Jan 29 (Bernama) – The National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP) 2019-2023 will spell out the limits of management authority between ministers and secretaries-general of ministries in an effort to separate the government administration from political influence, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

“This is an important measure to prevent the occurrence of any abuse of power,” the Prime Minister said when launching the NACP 2019-2023 here today.

The NACP 2019-2023 is to be implemented based on 22 strategies that would prioritise six key sectors. It comprises 115 anti-corruption initiatives involving the political, public procurement, law enforcement, public sector administration, legislation, judicial and corporate governance sectors.

The plan was developed by the National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC) with the collaboration of government agencies.

Dr Mahathir said he hoped that civil servants, especially heads of departments, would determine not only what contents of the plan were implemented but also ensure that they achieved the desired goal.

Dr Mahathir said the initiatives in the NACP could not be implemented by him alone or only the GIACC, and that this was the responsibility of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) or the agencies entrusted with governance and integrity.

"It is the responsibility of all quarters, from the prime minister to the kindergarten teachers, to foster good values and instill hatred for corruption among our children," he said at the

launch, which was attended by Cabinet ministers and senior government officials.

Dr Mahathir said the values would be more meaningful if the Cabinet ministers, chief ministers, menteriis besar and others entrusted by the people demonstrated exemplary traits in terms of integrity, being corruption-free, trustful and not abusing authority.



He said the first step of having to declare one's assets was very good because the people would know "our worth" before we held any office and after doing so.

"If we are seen to have come into great wealth all of a sudden, it will certainly raise questions and draw the attention of the anti-corruption agencies," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Pakatan Harapan won the 14th general election (GE14) last year due to its championing governance and integrity.

"We had no choice but to give priority to governance and integrity. This was the people's choice that was entrusted to the government of Pakatan Harapan," he said.

He also said that the NACP placed importance on having a bill related to political funding.

Dr Mahathir said the plan had assessed the risk of corruption at the grassroots level and focused on six areas identified as the priority fields where corruption was inclined to take place, namely public procurement; law enforcement; political governance; corporate governance; public sector administration; and legislation and judiciary.

The Prime Minister said that unless these six key areas were addressed, the problem of corruption in the country would be worse than what had been seen before.

He said the plan incorporated 115 initiatives, all of which intended to make Malaysia a corruption-free nation.

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