

Election: MACC to work with police, says Abu Kassim

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KOTA KINABALU: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will co-ordinate with the police and the Election Commission (EC) in anticipation that there will be many petitions after the general election.

MACC Chief Commissioner, Dato' Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed said that the commission forecasts there.

"We need to work together with other agencies such as the police and the EC. We've met up with the Attorney General (AG) and he has agreed to discuss on coordinating MACC with the police and EC.

"MACC is small, we on-

ly have a staff of about 2,700 so that's why we need the police to also conduct investigations because they have a bigger manpower," he said to reporters after launching the 2013 Convention of Higher Learning Institutions Corruption Prevention Secretariat (CPS) at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday.

Earlier in his speech, Abu Kassim said the purpose of the convention is to educate students, as future leaders, on ways to prevent corruption.

He said students of higher learning institutions need to be equipped with positive values especially on anti-corruption and abuse of power before they enter the working world in which they will be exposed to all forms of corruption.

"An analysis on people involved in corruption show that both the givers and the takers are mostly those with high education backgrounds. Therefore, higher learning institutions are effective targets for anti-corruption education. They can represent MACC in conveying anti-corruption messages to the society both in and out of the campus," said Abu Kassim.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention), Dato Sutinah Sutan said that apart from higher learning institutions, the commission will also form strategic alliances with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) this year as the latter can play a role in eradicating corruption.



Abu Kassim beats a gong to mark the launch of the convention as Dr Harun (second left) and Sutinah (left) look on.

She said that the commission will also make engagements with agencies that are prone to corruption such as enforcement agencies and collection agencies to conduct dialogues and forums that discuss issues faced by the agencies.

"Our focus is to help the

agencies tighten and improve their internal control systems in order to eliminate weaknesses that can lead to corruption.

"At the same time, we educate the officers of the agencies to cooperate with MACC by reporting any offers of bribery so we can

take action against the givers who are usually the public," Sutinah said adding that the government agencies have been cooperating with them.

Also present yesterday was UMS Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.