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MACC MONITORING GOVT DEPARTMENTS

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KEEPING A CLOSE EYE

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Departments possibly linked to cartel involving tender of govt projects, says Azam

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THE Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has identified other government departments believed to be linked to the activities of a cartel involving the tender of government projects.

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki said they were monitoring the departments in question.

"We are keeping a close eye on them and cooperating with the Finance Ministry on the procurement process so this issue can be resolved," he said after attending the National Department for Culture and Arts (JKKN) Strategic Co-operation Programme at JKKN's auditorium here yesterday.

Last month, MACC had busted



MACC chief commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki signing a poster at the launch of the National Department for Culture and Arts (JKKN) Strategic Co-operation Programme in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is JKKN director-general Mesran Mohd Yusof. PIC BY MOHD YUSNI ARIFFIN

the cartel's activities with the arrest of eight people, including its mastermind, as well as a senior government officer.

Officers found RM3.5 million in cash during a raid at the house of a 47-year-old businessman with a Datuk title, who allegedly headed the cartel.

The mastermind of the cartel had reportedly been monopolising government tenders since 2014.

A total of 644 bank accounts belonging to individuals and companies, worth about RM100 million, were subsequently frozen.

Meanwhile, Azam said MACC had concluded its investigation pertaining to the alleged abuse of power in Prasarana Malaysia Bhd.

He said they had recorded statements from relevant parties and the investigation paper had

been submitted to the Attorney-General (A-G).

"Yes, the case (investigation) is closed... it involves a particular figure.

"We submitted the papers to the A-G two weeks ago. Let's see if A-G recommends anyone to be charged," he said, adding that the investigation was made under Section 23(1) of the MACC Act for using one's office or position for gratification.

Earlier this year, MACC raided Prasarana's headquarters over alleged abuse of power. The commission seized documents and questioned witnesses.

Prasarana, however, denied that it was a raid and said MACC's visit was a fact-finding operation.

Meanwhile, Azam confirmed that MACC had established that no more of its personnel are linked to the organised crime syndicate headed by Winner Dynasty Group founder Datuk Seri Nicky Liow.

He said apart from its two officers detained by the police for the probe, no others had been identified. He said no internal investigations were done.

He said the two had yet to be suspended from duties.

"If they are charged, then we will suspend them," he said.

The "Nicky Gang", believed to be involved in various offences including money laundering, was busted in March.

Police arrested 68 people, including VIPs, believed to be close associates with the syndicate head. Also arrested were more than 30 government staff, including policemen, who had a role in allowing Liow to escape the police dragnet.

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SUMMARIES

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