

## **JITN MAY DUPLICATE MACC'S ROLE**

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PETALING JAYA: The proposed National Integrity and Good Governance Department (JITN) will duplicate the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) role, said the Malaysian Professional Centre.

Its president John Chang said JITN could also cause confusion over several other existing institutions with similar roles.

"The suggestion that more funds be allocated to existing bodies to strengthen their management and operation would be more productive and deserves consideration," said Chang.

Similarly, MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad had said the allocated budget for JITN could be better used to beef up existing law enforcement units.

The JITN would undertake the same duties as the MACC, he said.

He also said transparency and accountability must prevail as Malaysia continued to embark on social transformation and high-budget infrastructure development in its aim to become a high-income nation by 2020.

"We believe it is essential that high ethical standards and conduct, especially among the authorities, corporate and professional groups, are observed to ensure better efficiency, productivity and safety.

"This is to make Malaysia a respected place with a good business environment to attract more investments and jobs," he said, adding that they would offer their cooperation to promote and strengthen integrity and good corporate governance.

"Perhaps having a National Professional and Integrity Day would be a constant reminder to all our institutions on the importance of its adoption in daily dealings among themselves and with authorities and the public to maintain trust," he said.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paul Low, who announced the setting up of JITN, said it would be an upgrade of the Integrity and Good Governance Division under the Prime Minister's Department.

He said JITN's establishment was being finalised by the Public Service Department, in consultation with all the relevant agencies, to ensure that there was no duplication in functions and to improve the use of resources and manpower.

Low said the setting up of JITN was approved by the Cabinet on July 28.