

Former CJ calls for protection of whistleblowers in the civil service

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KUALA LUMPUR (Sept 14): Former Chief Justice Tun Zaki Azmi has suggested that the Government create a special mechanism to protect civil servants who provide information regarding deviations and malpractices in the administration.

He said this was important so that whistleblowers were protected by law besides following a clearer and proper process.

He said the Government could use the same concept as practised in most private sector companies whereby special e-mail addresses and telephone numbers are provided specifically for whistleblowers.

“That is why in the private sector they have a specific email and phone number for the whistleblower to contact, and the person who receives the information will not reveal the identity of the whistleblower.

“The Government can decide whether to bring the report to the respective Ministry’s secretary-general or the Minister himself. (They need to) make a policy, I understand there is no specific policy on this yet,” he said.

He disclosed this after delivering a speech at a seminar entitled “Division of Power: Where Is The Line of Neutrality for Civil Servants?” organised by the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), here today.

When speaking at the seminar, Zaki said the main responsibility of civil servants was to render advice to political leaders on the way to implement policies without breaching the law.

He said civil servants too could not deviate and take sides with the political parties by campaigning and using government allocation and facilities.

“But the civil servants too have a major responsibility in assisting the new Government to implement its policies. It’s not necessary to go against their directives,” he said.