

Ex-CJ: Civil service needs whistleblowing policy

KUALA LUMPUR: The civil service should consider introducing a whistleblowing policy, said former Chief Justice Tun Zaki Azmi.

It is the duty of the civil servant to report wrongdoings to the right parties, he said.

“If a public servant does not report it, then it means that the person did not carry out his or her duty as a public servant,” he told reporters after the seminar on “Government Insight Series 2018: Separation of Power – Where is the neutrality line for public servants?” yesterday.

Zaki said this when asked if civil servants were not allowed to speak up under the Public Service General Orders.

Asked to whom they should lodge a complaint with, he said the authorities would have to decide on that and come up with a policy.

“It can be the secretary-general if it is a ministry, or the chief secretary to the government,” he said.

Zaki said that according to a Public Service Department officer, there was no policy on whistle blowing for civil servants.

“If we have the policy, the policy will determine how they make the report and the protection for them,” he said, adding that models of private corporations that had implemented the policy could be used.

He said the policy must ensure that the whistleblower was protected unless the information was fake and that action could be taken against the whistleblower.

On the decision of Education Minister Maszlee Malik to end Zaki’s term as chairman of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), he said that it was up to him to appoint people he can work with.

“So, if he wants to appoint people for the good of UMS, people who can work with him, that is good for UMS,” he said.

Zaki, however, declined to comment on Dr Maszlee’s appointment as the president of the International Islamic University (IIUM) while holding a ministerial post.