KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

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'Sand' and the MACC

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Team to go to Melaka over Idris' sand royalty allegations

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PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is sending its officers to meet Datuk Seri Idris Haron over his allegations of sand royalty misappropriation and a project monopoly in Melaka.

The MACC said the meeting is to obtain more information from the former Sungai Udang assemblyman.

Idris, who is also former chief minister, said he was ready to provide evidence on what he alleged was a "scam" to cheat the Federal Government on marine sand extraction from Melaka coastlines.

"I will expose all the evildoers," he said in Melaka in response to the MACC's plan to send its officers to meet him over the claims.

The anti-graft body said it views seriously the claims made by Idris that certain parties were monopolising economic projects in Melaka as well as cheating the government out of sand royalties.

It also urged anyone with information or evidence of corruption and misappropriation regarding the issue to assist the MACC.

"Failure to report any wrongdoing under the MACC Act is a punishable offence under Section 25 of the same act," it said in a statement yesterday.

During a live broadcast on a news channel on Wednesday, Idris claimed that there were Melaka Umno leaders involved in scamming Putrajaya out of marine sand royalty payments and "monopolising projects".

He said the issue was among the factors behind his withdrawal of support for the Perikatan Nasional/Umno-led state government.

Idris, who was Melaka chief minister between 2013 and 2018, claimed that thousands of cubic metres of reclaimed sand were brought in but declared in low quantities, cheating Putrajaya out of royalties.

On Monday, he led three other Melaka assemblymen – Datuk Nor Azman Hassan (BN-Pantai Kundor), Noor Effandi Ahmad (Bersatu-Telok Mas) and Datuk Norhizam Hassan Baktee (Independent-Pengkalan Batu) – in withdrawing their support for Datuk Seri Sulaiman Md Ali as chief minister.

With their withdrawal of support, Sulaiman lost his majority support in the state legislative assembly.

Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam then dissolved the state assembly effective Monday, which means the state has to call for an election in 60 days.

Umno and Bersatu has nullified the memberships of the three assemblymen.