

CITY HALL TOLD TO SPEED UP MISCONDUCT PROBE

Action will be taken if board member bypassed open tender, says Zaliha

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MINISTER in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa has instructed Mayor Datuk Seri Dr Maimunah Mohd Sharif to expedite investigations into alleged misconduct by an advisory board member in relation to the awarding of a RM4 million project.

Dr Zaliha told the *New Straits Times* yesterday that she had also instructed the Federal Territories Foundation executive committee to accelerate its internal investigation.

She said strict action would be taken if the board member in question was found guilty of awarding the project without going through an open tender.

"I would like to emphasise that I will not compromise on any misconduct, especially those involving the Federal Territories," she said.



Dr Zaliha Mustafa

Earlier, Maimunah confirmed that City Hall had launched an internal investigation into an advisory board member.

Maimunah said she was working closely with City Hall's integrity unit.

Allegations of misconduct involving the board member went viral yesterday on social media.

The issue centres around the alleged bypassing of governance processes linked to the procurement of the RM4 million project, which was not awarded via open tender.

According to allegations on social media, the board member supposedly holds a position in the company which was awarded the project.

Separately, Maimunah con-

firmed that she halted a RM7 million project linked to the same board member upon assuming office last year.

She said she made the decision as she found the cost to be exorbitant and it may not have been in compliance with procurement processes.

The NST has reached out to the board member for comment.

"We are taking these allegations seriously and have instructed the integrity unit to investigate the claims of improper procurement," Maimunah said.

The integrity unit, she said, was obtaining the facts to determine if governance processes were adhered to.

"We are committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in all City Hall dealings. If any wrongdoing is found, the necessary actions will be taken."

Maimunah said City Hall was gathering information and evidence on the matter before deciding on the next course of action, including lodging a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki said the commission was ready to assist City Hall in its investigation into the case.

"If City Hall wishes to seek assistance, I don't have any issue," he said when contacted yesterday.