

# Mega project watch

## First mega project owner to include graft-busters

> FROM PAGE ONE

advisory and training services to both MRT Corp, sub-contractors as well as vendors.

"The move is also to ensure the Government does not suffer losses due to wastage or fraud.

"MRT Corp must be commended for being the first mega project owner that allowed the MACC to be directly involved in the project," she said during the signing of the integrity pacts between MRT Corp and its project delivery partner MMC-Gamuda JV.

Present at the ceremony were MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid and Transparency International Malaysia president Datuk Paul Low.

To a question, Sutinah said the MACC had proposed to MRT Corp not to consider one of the foreign firm's bid for a major section of the project.

She said this was because the firm was still under investigation for alleged corruption.

It was reported last year that the Swiss Attorney-General's office had ordered a unit of the foreign company to pay €31mil (RM124mil) in fines over allegations that it had offered bribes and kickbacks in Malaysia, Latvia and Tunisia.

The bribes were allegedly offered to middlemen and officials with the aim of securing government contracts to build power plants.

Azhar said the company took heed of the MACC recommendation and would refer to the corporation's higher authorities for advice.

"Ultimately, we will refer to the Government because it is a big decision with a lot of implications. We have to handle this with care and highest degree of seriousness," he said.

MACC ready to keep an eye on huge ventures to ensure there is no corruption

By **ZUHRIN AZAM AHMAD**  
zuhriazam@thestar.com.my

**PUTRAJAYA:** A foreign company bidding for a piece of action in the multi-billion ringgit Klang Valley MY Rapid Transit (MRT) project is set to become the first casualty of the country's anti-graft policy.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has advised the project owner, MRT Corp, not to consider the French company's bid as the firm was still under investigation for alleged corruption.

The recommendation is part of MACC's move to keep a hawk eye on mega projects to ensure there is no corruption, especially in the procurement process.

The commission begun monitoring MRT Corp at the invitation of the company.

MACC deputy chief commissioner Datuk Sutinah Sutan said besides monitoring the procurement process, the commission would also offer

> **TURN TO PAGE 3**