

Submission of Memorandum on Reform of Political Financing in Malaysia to the Prime Minister of Malaysia

On 5 May 2011, Ms. Josie Fernandez, the Secretary General and Mr. Alan Kirupakaran, the Executive Director represented TI-M in submitting the memorandum on Reforming Political Financing addressed to the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The memorandum (in Bahasa Malaysia and English) was received by Encik Asrul Affendi from the Prime Minister's press office. Apart from the 22 recommendations which were the direct result of TI-M research, the memorandum also contained various supporting information. This included an outline as to why reforming political financing is important to Malaysia and linking it to existing government initiatives such as fighting corruption being a National Key Result Area (NKRA) and the government's transformation programme (GTP). It also supports principles such as transparency, accountability and integrity which are integral parts of the government's economic blueprints namely the New Economic Model (NEM) and 10h Malaysian Plan.

Also included in the memorandum was a working proposal on Direct State Funding (DSF). TI-M's proposal was in two forms – an electoral competition funding for elected representatives during the election period, and a monthly allocation for constituencies of elected representatives for the running of their office.

The memorandum included examples of state funding mechanisms practised in various countries such as the United States, Australia, Germany, South Korea and United Kingdom.

Finally, in recognising that not all reforms can be implemented at once, TI-M proposes that certain recommendations be implemented before the 13th General Election. These were Direct State Funding, Regulation of Reporting of Political Financing, Full disclosure of Political Party and Candidate Financing, Regulating Political Donations and Equal and Fair Coverage by and Access to Public Media.

After the submission, TI-M released a press statement of the event and contents of our memorandum.