



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
MALAYSIA

NEWSLETTER



A NATION WITHOUT CORRUPTION,
A SOCIETY WITH INTEGRITY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) marked a significant milestone for the Madani government. But the real challenge is execution of the strategy. It is hoped that the various government agencies and ministries responsible will develop the tactical plans for execution. MACC being the custodian of the NACS has an obligation to report at least quarterly using a public dashboard to update the progress. It is only then we can say that the Madani government is on the path towards transparency, good governance and accountable.

The recent momentum by MACC to arrest public officials especially from the customs department and immigration department confirms our past comments that corruption in the civil service is so systemic. Efforts to eradicate corruption in our civil service by any government can be a challenging task. The recent comment by the Chief Commissioner of MACC Tan Sri Azam Baki that the proposed salary increase for the civil servants will not reduce corruption, has been met with negative reaction from trade unions. CSOs on the other hand agree with the view of the Chief Commissioner that salary increases will not necessarily reduce corruption because of the persistent nature of greed and abuse of power by these groups. What is needed urgently is for the government to amend the existing Whistle Blower Protection Act (WPA) to ensure greater protection for the whistle blowers. The existing act does not guarantee protection especially for the civil servants because of the contradiction between this act and the Official Secrets Act (OSA). Civil servants who report wrong doings may be at risk with detrimental actions by the government using the OSA.

During the last holy month of Ramadan TI-Malaysia and the EU Delegation jointly organised an Interfaith Dialogue involving six major religions in the country based on the book produced by TI-Malaysia, "The Sin of Corruption-A Religious Perspective". The objective of the dialogue was to address the issue of corruption from a religious stand point and it was clear that such an act stands in direct violation of precepts held sacred by all religions. This event was attended by ambassadors of EU member countries, civil society members, representatives of JAKIM (Department of Islamic Affairs Malaysia) and MCCBCHST (Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism). This event was a precursor to the book launch.

Our engagement with the Sarawak state's Unit Integriti & Ombudsman (UNIONS) continues and recently a training on "Measuring Anti-Corruption Compliance in Organizations" was conducted. This training was targeted for the Chief Integrity Officers and the training was leveraged using TI-Malaysia's Corporate Liability Adequate Procedures' checklist. The CEIO's actively engaged in discussions, presentations and demonstrated keen interest to learn. More programs are planned to be jointly organised with UNIONS which will be funded by UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime).

Dr Muhammad Mohan
President
Transparency International Malaysia



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EDITORIAL

LAUNCH OF MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY 2024-2028

The recent unveiling of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) for 2024-2028 promises comprehensive reforms and a robust framework to combat corruption. However, its effectiveness will ultimately depend on implementation, political will, and public engagement.

The NACS 2024-2028 sets clear objectives, measurable targets, and specific timelines, reflecting the Government's commitment to eradicate corruption. Key elements of the strategy, such as enhancing the independence of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), strengthening legal frameworks, and promoting transparency, are crucial steps towards building a more accountable and transparent government.



The strategy's emphasis on educational initiatives and public awareness campaigns is commendable. Instilling values of honesty and accountability from a young age is crucial for building a future generation that prioritizes transparency and rejects corruption.

Updating the legal framework, including the review of the Whistleblower Protection Act, is another critical component of the NACS. Providing robust protection for whistleblowers and closing legal loopholes are vital for creating an environment where corruption can be reported and prosecuted effectively.

However, it is noted that several key institutional and legal reforms such those related to MACC and electoral reforms and the proposed Political Financing Bill have been designated as "long term" i.e 4 to 5 years.

Despite its strengths, the NACS faces significant challenges. One major concern is the potential for political resistance and lack of genuine commitment from key stakeholders. Anti-corruption efforts often threaten entrenched interests, and without unwavering political will, the strategy may falter.

Moreover, the effectiveness of the NACS will depend heavily on the capacity of institutions to implement the proposed reforms. Ensuring that the MACC and other relevant bodies have the resources, expertise, and independence needed to carry out their mandates is critical. There is also a need for continuous monitoring and evaluation to track progress and make necessary adjustments.

As Malaysia embarks on its ambitious journey to achieve a ranking of top 25 in the Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index by 2033, it is crucial that all stakeholders remain committed to the vision of a transparent, accountable, and corruption-free nation.

EULIS RACHMATIAH ISKANDAR



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA'S IMPACTFUL CONTRIBUTION TO GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY



Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) played a pivotal role in the Special Committee Meeting Jawatankuasa Pilihan Khas Tadbir Urus, Integriti dan Anti Rasuah (JPK TIA) at the Dewan Negara.

Under the esteemed chairmanship of YB Senator Dato' Arman Azha bin Abu Hanifah, TI-M presented the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2023. This presentation emphasized the significance of the CPI in assessing national integrity and underscored the importance of enhancing Malaysia's global ranking.



TI-M also advocated for collaborative efforts to achieve Malaysia's goal of achieving ranking 25 in the CPI within the next ten years. This meeting demonstrated TI-M's commitment to combating corruption and promoting transparency in Malaysia.





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REFORMING INSTITUTIONS

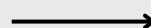
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA MEETING
WITH MINISTER YB DATO' SRI AZALINA



Transparency International Malaysia convened a meeting together with other coalition partners with the Minister of Law & Institutional Reform, YB Dato' Sri Azalina, to discuss issues related to institutional reforms at the Parliament's Bilik Mesyuarat.

The agenda focused on legislative changes, including introducing an Ombudsman Act, amendments to Section 17(A), separating the roles of the Attorney General and Public Prosecutor, and introducing the Political Financing Act.

These discussions are part of the overall effort towards institutional reforms.





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INTERFAITH IFTAR



Audiences from various companies and backgrounds in attendance of the Interfaith Forum

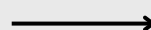
The Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia collaborated with Transparency International Malaysia and organized the Interfaith Dialogue titled 'Crossing Faith, Confronting Corruption' followed by the Iftar session. The event was held on the 26th of March 2024 during Ramadhan.

The event commenced with opening remarks from Mr Timo Goosmann, Deputy Head of Mission of the Delegation of EU to Malaysia, followed by an insightful keynote address delivered by Dr. Muhammad Mohan, President of TI-Malaysia. Subsequently, speakers representing different religious affiliations engaged in a dialogue exploring the issue of corruption through the lens of religion.



Six esteemed speakers for the Interfaith Forum which discussed on Chapter sharing based on a book by TI-M entitled The Sin of Corruption: A Religious Perspective.

The forum was presented by six esteemed speakers. (Photo: from the left) : Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdul Salam Muhamad Shukri (Author of the Islamic Chapter), Dr. Tan Ai Boay (Editor of the Buddhism Chapter), Rev Fr Dr. Clarence Devadass (Author of the Christianity Chapter), Ms. Nagarane Moorthy (Author of Hinduism Chapter), Dr. Karminder Singh Dhillon (Author for Sikhism Chapter) and Dr. Chin Yee Mun (Author for Taoism Chapter).





INTERFAITH IFTAR EU & TI-M



The Interfaith Iftar is an annual event hosted by the Delegation of EU, which includes a series of interfaith dialogues that highlight critical challenges faced by Malaysia. Given the ongoing societal discussions surrounding corruption's influence on Malaysia's progress and nation-building, this forum presents an exclusive platform for religious leaders to express their views to combating corruption. As for this year's Interfaith forum, the topic was based on a book published by TI-Malaysia entitled *The Sin of Corruption: A Religious Perspective*. The speakers shared their thoughts about their religion based on the book, along with a Q&A session with the audience. The event was closed by the H.E. Michalis Rokas, Ambassador of the EU Delegation.



**DR. MUHAMMAD MOHAN
WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF
THE DELEGATION OF
EUROPEAN UNION TO
MALAYSIA, H.E. MICHALIS
ROKAS**





MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN: A PERSPECTIVE ON MALAYSIA'S TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY



On April 4, 2024, Dr. Muhammad Mohan, President of Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), and Justin Jarret, Assistant Manager of TI-M, engaged in a fruitful discussion with the Ambassador of Spain to Malaysia, José Luis Pardo.

The meeting centred around Malaysia's social, economic, and political climate, viewed through the lens of TI-M. The ambassador posed thought-provoking questions, including TI-M's stance on the fight against corruption championed by the Prime Minister and the gender composition in corruption cases. Additionally, the civil service's role in reforms and the recent KK Mart controversy were discussed.

The Spanish Embassy expressed interest in future collaboration with TI-M on transparency, governance, and integrity issues, and TI-M committed to sharing copies of their new book, "The Sin of Corruption: A Religious Perspective," with relevant stakeholders at the embassy.



COLLECTIVE ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH MAJLIS DAERAH MARANG AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO MAJLIS PERBANDARAN DUNGUN



The Constructive Engagement phase of the Collective Action program with Majlis Daerah Marang (MDM) was held on 1 April 2024. This session saw representatives from the local council, community monitors, and contractors attending. The monitors shared their observations during the preceding 4-month monitoring period insights and offered suggestions to address some of the recurring issues that were reported. TI-M shared findings from both pre-and post-surveys conducted with the local community in Marang to assess the effectiveness of the Collective Action program.



The pilot phase of the program with Majlis Perbandaran Dungun (MPD) officially concluded on 15 April 2024.



As part of our commitment to the program, TI-M handed over the database of records compiled during the program and also conducted training on the use of the Microsoft Power BI application to MPD's staff. This transfer of technology aims to ensure the program's sustainability and continuity moving forward.



TI-M is glad to note that MPD has indicated its intention to expand the program to the Paka region in the near future. This bodes well for maintaining the momentum of Collective Action and MPD taking ownership of the program.



IACA DELEGATION APPLAUDS TERENGGANU'S COLLECTIVE ACTION PROGRESS

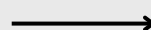
An official from the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) visited Terengganu from 22-24 April 2024 to observe first-hand the progress of the Collective Action program in Dungun and Marang. Dr Martin Zapata, IACA's senior officer from their academic division, was briefed by senior officers from Majlis Perbandaran Dungun and Majlis Daerah Marang, along with the local community monitors.

Dr Martin was encouraged by the close working relationship between the three main stakeholders – local council, community monitors, and contractors, as being key to the success of the program. He also noted the effective use of technology via the Microsoft Power BI dashboard to streamline processes, share information, reduce bureaucracy, and resolve public grievances more swiftly.



Dr Martin gave positive feedback on TI-M's Collective Action initiative in Terengganu and lauded its results in enhancing public engagement and participatory democracy at the community level. He looked forward to seeing its success replicated in other locations.

During his visit to Terengganu, Dr Martin also paid a courtesy visit to the Chief Secretary to the State Government, YBM Tengku Seri Bijaya Raja Dato' Seri Tengku Farok Hussin Bin Tengku Abdul Jalil. They discussed the progress of the Collective Action program and other areas of mutual interest.





TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA ATTENDED LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL ANTI- CORRUPTION STRATEGY (NACS) 2024-2028



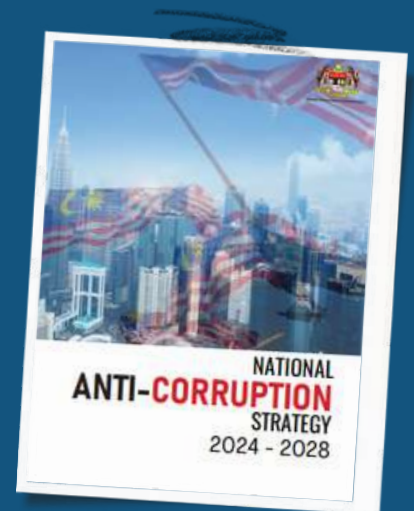
On May 7, 2024, Malaysia marked a significant milestone in its fight against corruption with the launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) for the period of 2024-2028. The event, held at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC), was officiated by the Honorable Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

This strategic initiative is a successor to the National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP) of 2021-2023 and represents a collaborative effort between the government and civil society organisations to strengthen democracy and integrity within the nation.



Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) welcomed the introduction of NACS, highlighting it as a positive step towards a mature democracy in which government and civil society work together.

The launch of NACS 2024-2028 is a testament to Malaysia's determination to eradicate corruption and safeguard the nation's resources for the betterment of its people and future generations.



MEETING UPDATE WITH PROJECT FUNDERS

INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE (IRI)

On 9th May 2024, TI-M had a meeting with the representatives of IRI at the WeWork coworking space, Equatorial Plaza, to discuss project updates. TI-M provided an update on the proposal for IRI's Youth Program (NextGen Academy), submitted on 30th April 2024.

Next, TI-M briefed on the preparation for the upcoming program with IRI, which will be held at Westin Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, for three days (28,29,30 May 2024). Additionally, TI-M informed IRI regarding a book launch event that will take place on the 13th of June 2024, which is still in the planning stages.

The meeting involved an exchange of insights on the newly launched National Anti-Corruption Strategies (NACS). Furthermore, IRI suggested emphasizing the democracy-related programs with populations outside of KL, such as institutional reforms, youth involvement in politics, and good governance, when applying for core funding with NED.

Lastly, IRI shared their project planning, whereby they are aiming to focus on the topic of open governance and reach out to more local organizations to collaborate and expand their network.



MR RICHARD NEPHEW (US STATE DEPARTMENT), MS BRYN WEST (US EMBASSY), CENTRE TO COMBAT CORRUPTION & CRONYISM (C4), AGORA SOCIETY



On 10th May 2024, TI-M visited the C4 centre to attend a meeting with the representatives from the US State Department and US Embassy. The discussion emphasized on TI-M, C4 and Agora Society as Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) efforts in advocating for anti-corruption, projects involvement and challenges faced in terms of funding matters.

All organizations exchanged their thoughts on several pressing issues in Malaysia, which include the recently launched NACS(2024-2028) contents, the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010 amendments, the Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA), and more.

Mr Richard Nephew , in return, conveyed his knowledge and insights based on the information given. The meeting discussed possible future collaborations and how to mitigate the challenges faced by each organization.



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA

STRENGTHENING CEIO PROGRAM

MEASURING ANTI-CORRUPTION IN YOUR ORGANISATION

Collaborative program between TI-Malaysia, United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) & Integrity & Ombudsman Unit Sarawak (UNIONS)



The program was officiated by Honorable Dato' Murshid Diraja Dr Juanda Jaya, Deputy Minister in the Sarawak Premier Department (Integrity & Ombudsman). The opening remarks were delivered by Mr Vickram Rangunath, National Program Officer of the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC). A total of 44 participants from different organizations attended the CEIO training at The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak, on 17th May 2024. The training consisted of 2 sessions from 10.30 am until 5.00 pm, and it was led by Puan Nurirdzuana Ismail, a Certified Integrity Officer(CeIO) where she shared her vast knowledge on the topic of Measuring Anti-corruption Compliance in your organization with the participants who were eager to learn.



Puan Nurirdzuana presenting a plaque to Dato' Dr Juanda Jaya as a token of appreciation from Transparency International Malaysia



TRAINING SESSIONS WITH PARTICIPANTS



Puan Nurirdzuana began the training session with a refresher on the principles of T.R.U.S.T. to ensure the participants have a solid understanding of the topics that will be covered. The participants were divided into five groups, comprising different organizations to encourage social interactions and exchange of insights. Each group was given two case studies to solve while utilizing the Checklist on Good Practices and Adequate Procedures as a guidance tool. The five groups were required to present their case studies in 5 minutes in front of other participants to be evaluated by Puan Nurirdzuana based on their understanding and applications of TRUST principles. All groups actively engaged in the discussions, presentations, demonstrating keen interests to learn. To wrap up, the joint program between TI-Malaysia, UNODC, and UNIONS successfully achieved the training objectives accordingly.



Eid Mubarak

TI-M ATTENDING CORPORATE MEMBERS' OPENHOUSES IN THE MONTH OF SYAWAL



Telekom Malaysia Berhad



Uda Holdings



Sime Darby Plantation Berhad



PKNS



KWAP



Sekatarakyat



Fighting for Land and Shade

By Mirella Randriamalala & Gareth Benest

7 May 2024

Razina is different. Unlike most people in Madagascar, his skin is pale. His hair is blonde and his eyes are a light shade of pink. Razina has albinism.

He became aware of just how different he was at a very early age. When he arrived at school for the first time, all the other children teased and harassed him. The bullying continued throughout his time at school. "They treated me as less than human, like a dog," he recalls

Gradually, Razina realised it wasn't only children that were prejudiced against him. Everyone from neighbours to total strangers were terrified by his appearance. They called him matoatoa (ghost). Strangers would cross the road to avoid him, while others would shout abuse or spit at him in disgust.

As in much of Sub-Saharan Africa, people with albinism in Madagascar are stigmatised and socially excluded. Their presence is often considered a curse on the family, or even the entire community. People with albinism are feared. Fear breeds hatred, which leads to discrimination and violence.

Born into prejudice

Razina's parents struggled to accept having a child with albinism. When he was born with the unmistakable fair skin, hair and eyes that distinguish those with albinism, they argued bitterly about who was responsible for the genetically inherited condition. They did not know that both parents must carry the gene responsible for albinism. Razina's three older sisters were all born without albinism, which heightened his parents' confusion and suspicions.

The couple's deep prejudices eventually led them to reject their infant son. They arranged for him to be adopted. When their next child, a boy they named Bera, was also born with albinism, the couple had to reluctantly accept their genetic inheritance. Razina rejoined the family alongside his sisters and baby brother.

Land is life-saving

The family lived together on a large plot of land in the Fitovinany region, south-eastern Madagascar. The rice and vegetables they grew on their twelve acres was enough to feed the whole family. It even generated a surplus that they sold in the local market.

The land was so large that many relatives were also invited to farm small plots. As the boys grew up, their mother's family were kind and caring towards Razina and Bera. Their father's relatives were much more hostile, however. They were frequently violent towards the boys and discriminated against them at every turn, throughout their childhood.



The climate in south-eastern Madagascar is typically hot and dry. Exposure to the sun is particularly dangerous for people with albinism. The condition means they are unable to produce sufficient quantities of melanin, leaving their skin highly vulnerable to skin damage and various forms of cancer. Razina and Bera were protected from over-exposure to the sun, both at home and at school, where they found shelter and safety in the shade.

Denial of customary rights

When his father died in 2001, as the eldest son, Razina stood to inherit the family's land as is the custom and the law in Madagascar. Owning the land would mean he and his brother could avoid toiling in the burning sun as subsistence farmers. They could lease plots of land, to generate an income, and hire workers to tend the remaining acres. Razina and Bera would be freed to continue their education and pursue professions that would keep them in the life-saving shade.

Ignoring both customary practice and the law itself, Razina's paternal relatives refused to acknowledge his legal ownership of the land. He has no doubt this was because of his albinism. "As the oldest boy in the family, it is my right to inherit the land according to our customs," Razina says, "but because of my albinism, I am not considered a real person". The relatives gradually began to encroach further and further onto the land, building houses and cultivating new areas.

Razina was determined to fight for his land, his birthright. He took the case to court and won. The judge ordered bailiffs to evict the squatting family members. When his relatives appealed the judgement, the Court of Appeal again found in Razina's favour and reaffirmed his legal inheritance. And yet, nothing happened. No bailiffs came and no evictions took place.

Corruption on the land

Today, Razina's relatives still occupy the land illegally. They continue to cultivate, construct buildings, and deny access to the rightful owners. Razina claims his relatives even falsified court documents – reversing the decision in their favour – which he believes were obtained by bribing court officials.

Local police officers have directly threatened Razina and attempted to coerce him into signing over his land title. Everyone from the Mayor and District Chief, through to civil servants from the land registry, lawyers and other members of the judiciary, are all suspected of corruption and discriminatory practices to alienate Razina from his land. He has even been prevented from speaking during dialogues to resolve the conflict, simply because of his albinism.

Fear and fury

Razina is angry and scared. He is learning to control the anger he's harboured since childhood. In the past, he would react violently when strangers abused him and spat in his face. The feelings of anger and frustration remain, but he's trying to harness his emotions to overcome a system and culture that is working tirelessly against him and his brother.



Fear is harder to control. The kidnapping and murder of people with albinism is increasing rapidly across the country; fuelled, in part, by the widely-held belief that albinism is the result of sorcery and evil magic. Body parts of people with albinism are traded for high prices and used in ritual practices that were unknown on the island until recently. The estimated 8,000 people living with albinism in Madagascar are all in constant danger of being murdered and dismembered, unprotected, as they are, by a society that views them as less than human; as a curse.

Burning determination

Without land and the income it can provide, Razina and Bera must endure the blazing sun each and every day. They are forced to toil outside – as carpenters and bricklayers – just to provide for their small families. They must risk the skin cancers that kill an estimated 90% of people with albinism in Africa, before the age of 30.

“It’s very difficult to work in the burning sun, but I have no choice because I have a family to feed. I wear long clothes but my skin still burns. It’s agony every time I get burnt and whenever somebody touches me.”

The toxic combination of discrimination and corruption has left Razina and Bera angry, scared, and vulnerable to great dangers. Unless and until the local administration and judiciary uphold their responsibilities to enforce the court orders, and protect all citizens equally, both men will remain in the gravest danger.

Razina remains determined to take back his land. He has taken his case to the High Court in Antananarivo and is awaiting a date for the hearing. “We are the same as other people,” he says, “and we just want to be treated equally”.

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Razina’s story shows how discrimination can make people even more vulnerable and exposed to corruption. This finding, as well as the myriad ways in which discrimination and corruption interact to deprive individuals and communities of their land rights, is explored in a new report by Transparency International and the Equal Rights Trust: *This Beautiful Land*. You can download the report [here](#) ([link is external](#)).

Names and other details have been changed in this story to protect the identities of those involved, at their request. We are grateful to ‘Razina’ for sharing his story. We would also like to thank the Association des Albinos de Madagascar for their support and guidance in preparing this article. Our thanks to colleagues from Transparency International Madagascar, in particular Ketakandriana Rafitson and Vatsy Ambinina Rakotonarivo for their important contributions.

TI-MALAYSIA IN THE NEWS

APRIL, MAY, JUNE

Strategi banteras rasuah Malaysia masih kabur



Presiden Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), Dr. Muhammad Mervan Abdubali

DIARY MOHAMED FADHI MOHAMED SUKAIMAN | 2 Mei 2024, 7:51 am



TI-M : NACS puts Malaysia on right path to be a top 25 nation on Corruption Perception Index in 10 years



By Rahmat Khanjari | May 7, 2024 | 8:00pm



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2024 - 2028 today. -fotoBERHAMA (2024) HAK CIPTA TERPELIHARA



Experts laud move to rename BNS to Lunas

By Aiza Shah | March 28, 2024 | 9:48pm



Never-ending news of corruption in public sector looms over nation, say watchdogs

By Wazwan Hussen | March 30, 2024 | 9:00pm



Corruption watchdog groups are cautioning the government for worsening corruption in the public sector which could hold

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Strategi banteras
rasuah
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»12 & 13

