



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
MALAYSIA

NEWSLETTER



A NATION FREE OF CORRUPTION,
A SOCIETY BUILT ON INTEGRITY

Volume 56 (January-February 2025). KDN Permit No: 11959/03/2019 (025399)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I am honoured to share with you the significant strides and ongoing initiatives that our organization has undertaken in our relentless pursuit to combat corruption and promote transparency and Integrity.

Malaysia's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) score in 2024 remained at 50 points, maintaining our position at 57th among 180 countries. While the Madani government has set a goal to be among the top 25 countries globally by 2033, this score gives an indication to the government that reforms must be accelerated and real change in terms of government efficiency, ease of doing business, conviction against corrupt public officials and reduction in the public sector bureaucracy must be felt by the ordinary people and the business community. Only with such affirmative actions this vision is possible.

Two important bills were tabled in parliament last week. The Parliamentary Services Act which is making a come back after 33 years was passed. This will allow parliament to act as a truly independent body, running its own affairs, selecting its staff and controlling its expenditure. This is a positive development. However, the bill presented for the first reading to amend the Whistle Blower Protection Act (2010) was disappointing. One key aspect omitted in this bill is to provide protection for all whistle blowers. The issue is, there will be cases where a whistle blower may have been involved in the wrong doing himself because of pressure by his peers or leadership but decides to report and repent. Under such circumstances upon investigations enforcement agencies may give protection to the whistle blower. Despite all the consultations and the inputs provided during the last six (6) years the bill failed to address this issue in Section 11 of the act. Such half-baked reforms will not improve Malaysia's CPI scores. TI-Malaysia together other CSOs will continue to engage with the government before the second reading in the coming sitting in June this year.

Following the NACS (National Anti-Corruption Strategy) launch in June last year, TI-Malaysia has recommended to the government to come up with a public dashboard to monitor the progress of the NACS. In January this year the dashboard was launched and as of today the completion rate is 8%. This is a positive development.

On the 11 February this year we launched our new chapbook publication "Ajaran Anti Rasuah Menurut Islam". This is from the book "The Sin of Corruption-A Religious Perspective" where the anti-corruption teachings according to Islam was translated. We are collaborating with JAKIM (Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia) and Rasuah Busters to distribute these books to government agencies, mosques and universities.

In closing on behalf of the exco I would like to thank all members, the media, CSO partners and friends of TI-Malaysia for your continued support to our movement and the work we do.

Dr Muhammad Mohan
President
Transparency International Malaysia



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EDITORIAL

Challenges in Implementing Political Financing Laws in Malaysia: Transparency in Political Financing and Accountability in Public Funding

Transparent political financing regulation is a critical aspect of democracy, and is essential in ensuring fair elections, reducing corruption risks, and promoting public confidence in the political system. However, in Malaysia, the regulation of political financing remains a complex and sensitive issue. Despite calls for reform, efforts to introduce clear and transparent laws on political financing face significant challenges.

The Government is currently gathering views from political parties and other stakeholders including the public to guide the drafting of the Political Financing Bill and certain key items such as the need for public funding, limits or caps to contributions and the body that will regulate political funds have yet to reach unanimous agreement.

At present in Malaysia there is no mandatory requirement for political parties or candidates to disclose their funding sources, making it difficult for the public to scrutinize financial influences on politics.

There is also no legal cap on the amount individuals or corporations can donate to political parties, leading to concerns about excessive influence from wealthy donors. Unregulated political financing also allows dark money networks where anonymous donors funnel millions into campaigns, foreign interference in elections through hidden financial contributions and organized crime influence, as criminal groups can launder money through political donations.

A major argument against political funding transparency is donor victimization, the concern that individuals or businesses who contribute to political parties may face discrimination, harassment, or loss of business opportunities if their political affiliations are made public.

Companies that donate to opposition parties worry they may lose government contracts, face regulatory scrutiny, or experience bureaucratic obstacles. Individual donors may face social or professional consequences if their political contributions are made public, especially in a polarized political climate. Without fair and neutral enforcement, political funding laws could be used selectively to pressure or penalize certain donors while protecting others.

Ironically, in the absence of transparency, donor victimisation can still occur but in a more dangerous and hidden form. Without clear regulations, political parties can intimidate businesses into making "donations" under the threat of losing government contracts or facing unnecessary regulatory scrutiny. Transparency reduces this coercion by exposing unethical transactions.

To complement transparency measures and reduce concerns about donor victimization, many countries have adopted public funding mechanisms to support political parties and electoral campaigns. Public funding plays a significant role in ensuring a fair and level playing field while reducing the reliance on private and corporate donations. Reducing reliance on private and corporate donations means less political patronage and favouritism. When politicians rely heavily on private donors, there may be an expectation, whether explicit or implicit, that policies or government contracts will favour contributors. Public funding reduces this pressure, allowing elected representatives to focus on governance in the public interest.

By having transparency in political financing and accountability in public funding, Malaysia can develop a system that strengthens democracy, reduces corruption risks, and ensures that political competition is based on ideas and public support, rather than financial power.



EULIS RACHMATIAH ISKANDAR



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MEETING WITH *DEWAN BANDARAYA KUALA LUMPUR (DBKL)*

Collective Action Project sharing



On 2 January 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) met with YBhg. Dato' Seri TPr. (Dr.) Maimunah binti Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur City Hall (Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur DBKL). Representing TI-M were Dr Muhammad Mohan (President), Mr Alan Kirupakaran (Exco Member), Mr Justin Jarret (Manager) and Mr Asyraf Shaadan (Project Executive).



Our team presented the successful Collective Action Project, which we partnered with the State of Terengganu. We discussed the potential for expanding this project and collaborating with DBKL. This initiative presents a crucial opportunity to enhance governance integrity in Kuala Lumpur. We are eager to collaborate with DBKL and achieve this mission seamlessly.



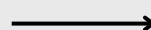


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Roundtable Session on TI-Malaysia's preliminary report on Malaysia's nascent Voluntary Carbon Market in Subang & Kota Kinabalu, Sabah



As part of our Climate Governance and Integrity Project (CGIP) on the Voluntary Carbon Market in Malaysia, Transparency International Malaysia organized two roundtables on January 20, 2025, at the Empire Subang Hotel and January 27, 2025, at the Promenade Hotel Kota Kinabalu Sabah. These events aimed to discuss our preliminary report on Malaysia's nascent Voluntary Carbon Market. We invited experts from various backgrounds, including Indigenous community and CSO representatives, to provide valuable insights on the report and VCM policy proposals. The roundtables featured a presentation by our lead researcher, Mr. Ho Yi Jian, and a discussion session with the experts. Key areas addressed included best practices, preventive measures, local case studies (Bukit Tagar Landfills CDM Project & Kuamut Rainforest Conservation Project), government involvement and regulation, project independence, and market mechanisms. Participants actively engaged in discussions, contributing to a better understanding of the carbon market and exploring potential improvements to ensure the highest standards of integrity and transparency.





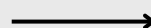


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Regional Workshop on Non-Governmental Stakeholders' Engagement in Practical Application of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)



From 15 until 17th of January 2025, Mr Raymon Ram, our Secretary General, participated in a 3-day Regional Workshop on Non-Governmental Stakeholders' Engagement in the Practical Application of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in Putrajaya, Malaysia. At the workshop, Mr Raymon shared his perspectives on the role of CSOs in driving anti-corruption efforts and how the private sector can align with the UNTOC initiatives, particularly the beneficial ownership transparency and anti-bribery frameworks. Mr. Raymon has also been elected to the Steering Committee of the Asia Civil Society Regional Network (NET4U) to enhance cross-country collaboration in tackling shared challenges across ASEAN and South Asia.

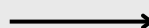
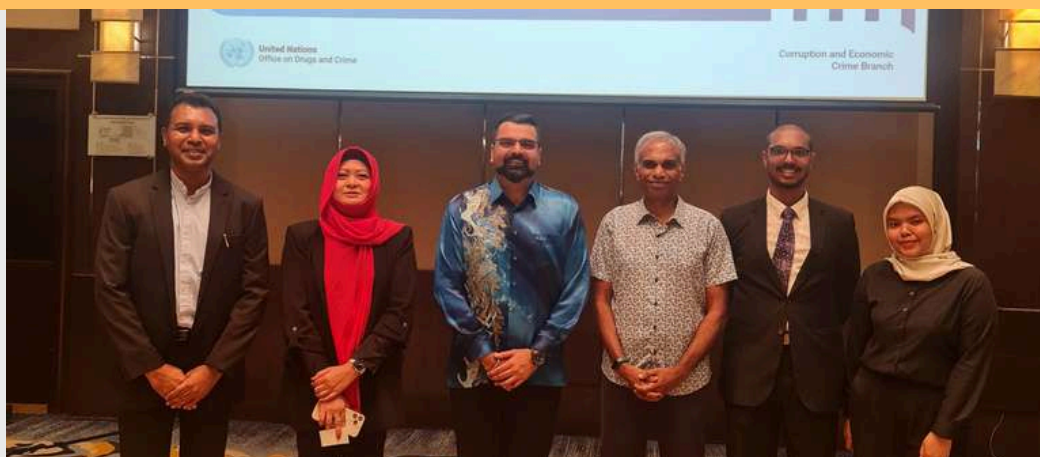




UNODC Business Integrity Workshop on Strengthening Business Integrity through Incentives in Malaysia



On 5th February 2025, the TI-M team, comprising Balakrishnan, Nuri, Raymon, Alan, Justin, and Afrina, participated in the UNODC Business Integrity Workshop on Strengthening Business Integrity through Incentives in Malaysia. The participants were representatives from MACC, the Ministry of Finance, the Integrity Institute of Malaysia, the private sector/businesses, and CSOs. The workshop objectives are to build participants' capacity in UNCAC and business integrity incentives, gather stakeholder feedback on business integrity challenges and opportunities in Malaysia, and develop a collaborative framework for legislative support, policy reform, and sharing international best practices.





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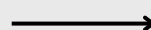
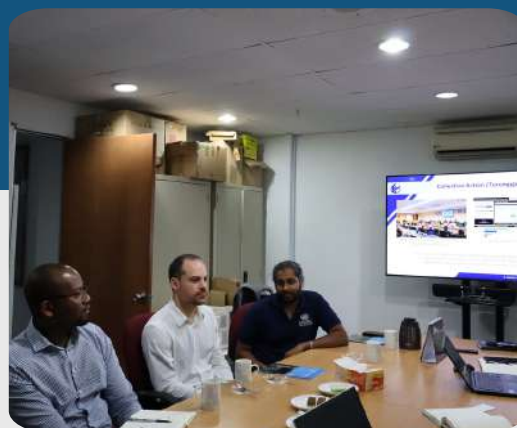
UNDOC Courtesy Visit to TI-Malaysia



On 7th February 2025, TI-Malaysia received a courtesy visit from Mr Florian Lair and Mr Benjamin Mirichi, our colleagues at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Our Manager, Mr. Justin, presented the past work that TI-M has cooperated on with UNODC. At the same time, our Secretary General provided insights into the ongoing institutional reforms in Malaysia, especially regarding the Political Financing Act, Beneficial Ownership, Public Procurement, and more. We also discussed potential future collaborations with UNODC and the projects TI-M hopes to carry out.

We look forward to maintaining the productive momentum and close partnership with UNODC in future programs to fight corruption in Malaysia.





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TI-M Handover books to JAKIM

Ajaran Antirasuah Menurut Islam



On February 10th, 2025, Dr. Mohan visited the Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (JAKIM) to officially hand over the Islamic Chapter version of the Sin of Corruption book, *Ajaran Antirasuah Menurut Islam*. This book is intended to be distributed to mosques across Malaysia as part of an ongoing collaboration between Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) and JAKIM.

In this effort, we worked closely with Dr. Muhammad Yamin bin Ismail, Secretary / Senior Director of the Research Division at JAKIM, to ensure the successful dissemination of the book. This initiative aims to reach as many mosques as possible, promoting the principles of integrity and anti-corruption within the Islamic community.

We initiated the distribution by approaching the Heads of mosques under JAKIM's jurisdiction and presenting the books to them. This marks a significant step in our continuous efforts to foster awareness and education on the sin of corruption according to Islamic teachings. The collaboration underscores our shared commitment to combating corruption and promoting ethical values in all sectors of society.





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BOOK LAUNCH

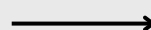
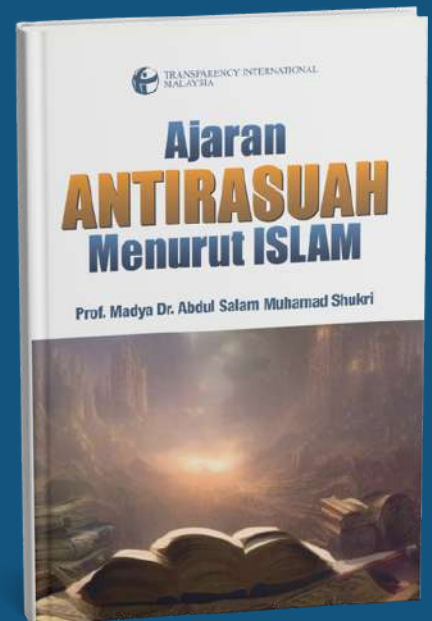
Ajaran Antirasuah Menurut Islam



On 11th February 2025, Transparency International Malaysia took the opportunity to launch our book, *Ajaran Antirasuah Menurut Islam*. Present on stage alongside Dr Mohan to launch the book was Dr Muhammad, Dr Yamin bin Ismail, Secretary / Senior Director of the Research Division at JAKIM, Prof Madya Dr Abdul Salam (Writer), Dr Yusri (Editor) and Mr Raymon Ram.

This book is derived from the Islamic chapter in the Sin of Corruption book. We partnered with Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (JAKIM) and printed copies of the book to be distributed among Muslim communities across Malaysia. We are grateful for JAKIM's endless support in our effort to educate our Muslim brothers and sisters on anti-corruption from a religious perspective.

You can purchase the book through our Google [Purchase Form](#) or email us at ti-malaysia@transparency.org.my





CPI 2024 RESULTS LAUNCH

Corruption Perceptions Index 2024

Malaysia's Score

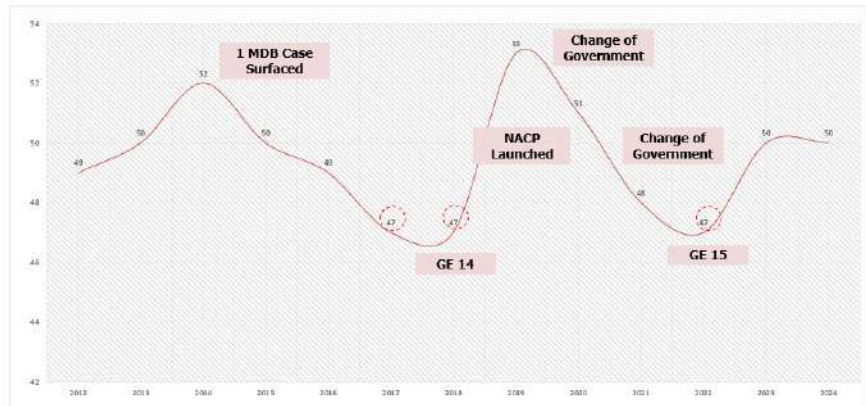
YEAR	SCORE ¹
2021	48
2022	47
2023	50
2024	50



Note: 1. 100 (very clean) to 0 (highly corrupt)

2024 CPI RESULTS

MALAYSIA'S SCORE – LAST 13 YEARS

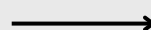


2024 CPI RESULTS

A Nation free of Corruption; A Society built on Integrity

On February 11th, 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) hosted the release of the Corruption Perceptions Index 2024 (CPI 2024) at the Tropicana Golf & Country Resort. The event was attended by TI-M members, guests from various agencies and companies, members of the media, and representatives from other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

As for the results, Malaysia's score remained stagnant at 50 points, identical to the 2023 index. Malaysia's ranking also held steady at 57 out of 180 countries surveyed, mirroring the previous year's position. Attendees expressed surprise at the lack of progress. During the presentation, Dr Muhammad Mohan emphasized that although Malaysia's score and rank remained unchanged, the government must diligently pursue the vision mandated by Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim to be ranked among the top 25 countries in the CPI by 2033.





The audience posed several questions expressing their concerns about Malaysia's CPI 2024 scores and ranking. Dr. Mohan cited reasons for Malaysia's stagnant scores, including perceived public sector corruption, slow institutional reforms, lenient sentences for high-profile cases, abuse of power, and unpunished wrongdoing reported by the Auditor General. TI-M recommended expediting reforms such as the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Political Financing Act, and improving public procurement governance. Positive developments included the Chief Secretary championing NACS. Dr. Mohan urged the government to consider the recommendations, enhance the Integrity Pact, and use new technologies to reduce bureaucracy and increase transparency, hoping for significant changes to improve Malaysia's CPI scores and ranking.





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ANTI-BRIBERY & GENERAL COMPLIANCE SUMMIT

Veolia Water Technologies Asia Pacific



On 17th & 18th February 2025, the Legal Team of Veolia Water Technologies Asia Pacific coordinated the Anti-Bribery & General Compliance Summit For Water Tech Southeast Asia and Korea, Taiwan & Japan, which featured a carefully curated agenda that was instrumental in reinforcing their organizational commitment to ethical business practices.

Dr Muhammad Mohan was invited to be one of the speakers, and he presented on "Building Organizational Integrity with Good Governance", sharing insights into the challenges and progress of anti-corruption efforts in the region and emphasizing the importance of every country's contribution in the global fight against corruption, promoting accountability and integrity. Dr Mohan also participated in a panel discussion with the senior management team at Veolia.





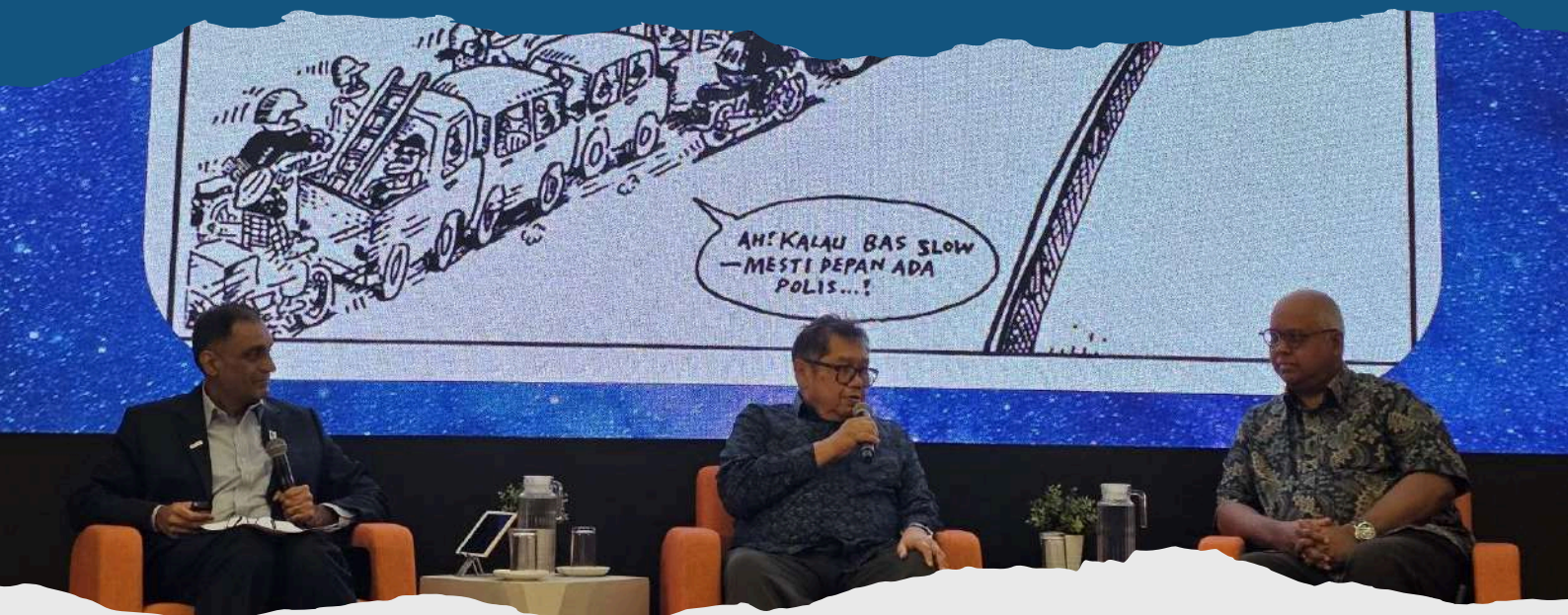
SD GUTHRIE 24-DAYS INTEGRITY SUMMIT

Panel discussion on Integrity in everyday life



On 18th February 2025, SD Guthrie, our corporate member, concluded a Panel Discussion as part of their 24-day Integrity Summit, celebrating the company's culture of integrity. Dr Muhammad Mohan was invited to moderate the Panel Discussion and was joined by esteemed panellists, including Malaysian legend YBhg. Dato' Lat and YBhg. Datuk Dr. Anis Yusal Yusoff, Executive Director of the International Institute of Public Policy & Management at the University of Malaya. The panellists enlightened the audience with insights on integrity in everyday life, illustrated through the memorable cartoons from Dato' Lat's collection and their vast experience and expertise.

We commend SD Guthrie's continued effort and commitment to championing integrity within the organization and hope the discussion benefited its employees.





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SEA-ACN REGIONAL FORUM ON UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Organized by the Knowledge Hub for Regional Anti-Corruption
and Good Governance Collaboration (KRAC) and C4 Centre



On 17th and 18th February 2025, Afrina, Executive (Communication & Project) represented TI-M at the SEA-ACN Regional Forum on Understanding Public Procurement at the SILQ Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was attended by 30 participants from seven countries: Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Laos. Organized by the Knowledge Hub for Regional Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Collaboration (KRAC) and C4 Centre, the event aimed to foster cross-border understanding of each country's public procurement modalities and challenges.



During the discussion session, she emphasized that TI-M advocates for the Integrity Pact to comply with international standards by implementing an Independent Oversight Body or Independent Expert Monitor (IEM), making it a tripartite body. The IEM acts as a neutral party, providing oversight and addressing any issues of misconduct or corruption. She suggested this measure for mega projects exceeding USD 1 billion or those without competitive bidding. This body ensures that all parties adhere to the principles of transparency and integrity, thereby reducing opportunities for corruption and enhancing public trust in government procurement.





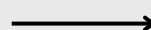
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BENKEL CADANGAN DAN INTERVENSI MACOS

Organized by the Community Education Department of
the Malaysian Anti-corruption Commission (MACC)



On 24th until 26th February 2025, Ms. Nuridzuana represented Transparency International Malaysia at a workshop at Lexis Hotel, Port Dickson, organized by the Community Education Department of MACC to discuss the findings and potential interventions based on a nationwide survey called MaCOS (Study on Corruption issues in Malaysia). She actively participated in the discussion sessions on recommended interventions for the community based on the study.





No compromise in fighting corruption

DR POLA SINGH

Kuala Lumpur (The writer is a former exco member of Transparency International, Malaysia.)

13 February 2025

Malaysia's 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ranking remains unchanged from 2023 at 57 with a score of 50. While the country saw a marginal improvement from 2022, when it ranked 61 with a score of 47, this progress is far from satisfactory.

Transparency International Malaysia has attributed this stagnation to the slow pace of reforms and the alarming trend of high-profile Discharge Not Amounting to Acquittal (DNAA) cases. These factors continue to erode public confidence in the government's commitment to eradicating corruption.

The government has set an ambitious target to improve Malaysia's ranking from 57 to the top 25 by 2033 under the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). This vision, championed by both the Prime Minister and the Chief Secretary to the Government, is commendable.

However, grand strategies and well-crafted rhetoric will not drive Malaysia forward unless tangible, measurable and swift actions are implemented. If the past two years have shown anything, it is that commitments without delivery do not inspire confidence.

Institutional reforms have been painfully slow. The government must foster continuous and collective cooperation among all stakeholders – politicians, public institutions, the private sector, and civil society – to accelerate meaningful change. The rhetoric of reform must translate into concrete and swift action. Timely progress reports must be forthcoming.

Corruption thrives where there is inefficiency and lack of oversight. Malaysia's system continues to bleed due to rampant leakages and entrenched rent-seeking behaviours among the well-connected. These issues must be addressed with immediate and uncompromising measures, including stricter enforcement, harsher penalties, and unwavering political will.

The alarming number of DNAA cases involving high-profile individuals gives the impression that Malaysia is moving away from good governance rather than towards it. Justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done. The government must ensure that legal loopholes are closed, and high-profile cases are prosecuted transparently and fairly.

There can be no compromise in institutionalising good governance, integrity and anti-corruption efforts within the government machinery. If Malaysia is serious about its 2033 CPI target, incremental improvements must begin now. Expecting a dramatic jump in the future without steady progress is unrealistic. The government must not only make promises but also ensure consistent and transparent execution to rebuild trust and credibility.

In launching the NACS, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim rightly stated: "The rakyat, whom we are accountable to, are closely watching, and the onus is on us to prove that this strategy goes beyond mere rhetoric."

It is time for these words to be backed by resolute action. The government must take the bull by the horns and deliver real, measurable results. The fight against corruption cannot be about optics; it must be about concrete change that restores public confidence and upholds the integrity of Malaysia's institutions.

The time for rhetoric is over; now is the time for action.

TI-MALAYSIA IN THE NEWS

JANURARY, FEBRUARY

[UPDATED] Malaysia maintains 57th spot in global perception rankings for second year

By Iyia Marsya Iskandar - February 11, 2025 @ 1:16pm



Transparency group urges government to expedite asset declaration for public officials

By Luqman Hakim - February 6, 2025 @ 4:12pm



Transparency International calls for continuous monitoring of anti-corruption strategies

By Luqman Hakim - January 16, 2025 @ 2:46pm



Transparency International demands action over e-waste allegations

By Luqman Hakim - January 9, 2025 @ 5:50pm

