



PEMANDU
UNIT PENGURUSAN PRESTASI DAN PELAKSANAAN

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GTP On Track to Fight Graft

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's score for Transparency International (TI)'s Corruption Perception Index (CPI) has remained essentially the same this year at 4.4 with Malaysia's ranking remaining the same as in 2009, at 56 out of 178 countries.

"Although this score is not quite a case for celebration, it need not be seen as a negative development," said Senator Datuk Seri Idris Jala, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department. "The CPI takes an amorphous and immeasurable concept such as corruption and gives it a number. Its use as a focal point for combating corruption has allowed various arms of the Malaysian Government to be aligned in taking action to reduce corruption. For this, we thank Transparency International, and in particular its Malaysian chapter, for their helpful input and collaborative attitude and look forward to a productive working relationship in working together to fight corruption."

According to Idris, although the score did experience a dip of a 0.1 point difference from last year's score of 4.5, this reflects the nature of the CPI rather than a lack of progress on the Government Transformation Programme (GTP)'s National Key Results Area (NKRA) of fighting corruption.

Idris also said that one must recognise the intended use of CPI. “The CPI is good in that it is widely recognised as a measure of corruption perception and summarises the complex issue of corruption into single measurable and easily communicable indicator,” he pointed out. The CPI, however, does not measure the direct impact of actions taken to address concerns of the Rakyat or the man-on-the-street, as the CPI constituent surveys seek views from business people and country / risk / expert analysts.

He also said one must recognise that perceptions are based on experience. And since key developments through the initiatives of the NKRA that have taken place have yet to be felt on the ground as they have only taken place within 2010, the perception registered may also be slightly skewed.

“The CPI is not intended for monitoring progress over time / year-to-year,” said Idris who is also the CEO of Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU). According to the methodology for calculating the CPI, the input from some of the constituent survey results for the CPI are based on a two-year rolling average and so activities conducted for only a year are unlikely to have any immediate impact on the CPI the following year.

And although it may not have been reflected in the CPI in a significant way, Idris said the Government has been successful in taking various steps to fight corruption and has to date seen progress. Among them:

- **Grand Corruption** (including the institutional framework)
 - ⇒ The initiatives that have been taken include the formation of 18 special corruption courts and amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code to ensure trials are completed expeditiously for a more successful outcome. Work is also being done to bring the courts to a state of readiness for operations.
 - ⇒ The naming and shaming of offenders under the “Convicted Corruption Offenders’ Database” on the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)’s website that

collates details of convicted corruption offenders, including their names, identification details, employer, charge made and sentence imposed. Information is collated from state courts around the country and is displayed with their photographs. As of today, 222 offenders have, so far, been listed in the database on <http://www.sprm.gov.my/> since it was created in February this year, with most cases being uploaded within a month of being decided.

⇒ The Whistleblower Protection Act was passed earlier this year and efforts are being made to implement the law before the end of the year. With this, Malaysia honours its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and creates conditions where there will be less tolerance and opportunity for corruption as well as encourages people to come forward to report it.

- **Corruption in Procurement**

Among the steps taken by the Government to create greater transparency, 3716 Government contract tender awards are now published in the MyProcurement portal (<http://myprocurement.treasury.gov.my/>). Nevertheless, it is recognised that more needs to be done. Thus, to encourage even greater accountability in public spending, the Government is working toward introducing an “integrity pact” under which all aspects of a public project can be subject to contractual commitments not to conduct corrupt activities, which would be subject to independent monitoring. While the Government continues to work on developing an appropriate mechanism for implementing an integrity pact, the Ministry of Finance has already issued a Treasury Directive Letter to guide Ministries on the use of integrity pacts.

- **Corruption among Regulatory and Enforcement Agencies**

Compliance units have also been established in each of the key enforcement agencies – Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM), Road Transport Department (JPJ), Royal Malaysian Customs Department, the Immigration Department and MACC to ensure that law

enforcement officers adhere to proper procedures. Efforts are being made to ensure that these units have the competencies to conduct their work effectively.

Malaysia is also participating in regional and international anti-corruption conferences to learn and exchange best practices on tackling graft. One such conference is the upcoming 14th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in Bangkok, Thailand from the 10th to the 13th of November 2010.

Despite the slight dip, a closer look at the scoring for this year's CPI shows an improvement in the perception of respondents under some of the constituent surveys, namely the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook, the Political & Economic Risk Consultancy's Asian Intelligence Newsletter, and the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report. "This bodes well for the future," Idris said, "as we can infer that we are on the right track with the initiatives and efforts under this NKRA so far."
