



TRANSPARENCY
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MALAYSIA

NEWSLETTER



A NATION FREE OF CORRUPTION,
A SOCIETY BUILT ON INTEGRITY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This first quarter has taken place against a backdrop of heightened uncertainty. Globally, conflict-driven disruption to critical trade and energy routes has raised economic anxieties and renewed cost pressures in many countries. In periods like this, governments everywhere face a simple test: will decisions be made transparently, anchored in evidence, and accountable to the public—or will urgency become an excuse to bypass scrutiny? Malaysia's own call for restraint and diplomatic resolution in the region reflects a principled approach, and it also underscores the responsibility to keep our domestic governance strong, transparent, and trusted.

Against this complex landscape, Malaysia's CPI 2025 results provide cautious encouragement. Malaysia's score improved to 52, with a ranking of 54 out of 182 countries. This is a positive signal that reform efforts are being noticed, but TI-M's position is clear: this is a step forward, not a turning point. To reach our national aspiration of being among the top 25 by 2033, we must shift from incremental progress to sustained delivery—year after year—with reforms that are implemented, enforced, and measured.

The credibility of any anti-corruption agenda rests on two foundations: institutional independence and equal accountability under the law. That is why TI-M has consistently called for reforms that reduce discretion and opacity in public procurement, strengthen whistleblower protection in practice—not only on paper—bring political financing into the light, and ensure that any new tools such as DPAs never become pathways to weakened deterrence or selective outcomes. We have also warned against a drift toward "settlement over prosecution" in major cases. Recovering assets matters, but justice must remain more than a financial transaction; otherwise, public trust will continue to erode. Trust is also shaped by the integrity of process. When serious allegations arise that affect public confidence in key institutions, the public deserves answers that are independent, time-bound, and transparent—while fully respecting the rule of law and the presumption of innocence. TI-M has taken this principled stance because Malaysia's anti-corruption architecture must not only be independent; it must also be seen to be independent.

This quarter also reinforced a wider truth: reform is not only about laws—it is about responsibility. The failure of a major constitutional reform vote due to absenteeism reminded Malaysians that democratic governance depends on participation, transparency, and accountability from those entrusted to legislate in the public interest. TI-M will continue advocating for practical, rules-based measures that strengthen parliamentary integrity and public confidence. Amid these national challenges, TI-M remained active on multiple fronts. We began the year by advancing integrity in climate governance through our "Rating the Raters" initiative—because climate action without governance safeguards risks becoming another arena for manipulation, over-claiming, and loss of trust. We convened timely dialogues on procurement risks, engaged oversight stakeholders, strengthened partnerships with international counterparts, and reached thousands through Integrity Day engagements—because building a culture of integrity requires sustained education, collaboration, and courage.

To every member, supporter, partner organization, and volunteer: thank you. Your commitment gives TI-M the legitimacy and strength to speak with clarity and independence. The work ahead is demanding, but it is also achievable—if we insist on consistent standards, transparent governance, and accountability without fear or favour.

With Integrity & Commitment,
Raymon Ram
President,
Transparency International Malaysia.



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EDITORIAL

Perception vs Reality: Malaysia's Governance at a Crossroads

Dr Sahul Hamid, Editor, TI-M Newsletter

The latest Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released by Transparency International shows a slight improvement in Malaysia's ranking and score. This climb suggests that efforts to improve governance and address corruption are being noticed internationally. It also helps shape a more positive image of the government, especially in the eyes of investors and external observers.

However, a closer look reveals a more complicated reality. While perception may be improving, several domestic issues continue to raise serious concerns about the strength and credibility of Malaysia's governance system.

Recent domestic controversies continue to raise difficult questions about governance and institutional integrity. The scandal involving the leadership of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and the corporate mafia remains a critical example.

While the matter was formally acknowledged, the absence of a fully independent and transparent inquiry has left significant public doubt. This coupled with the lawsuits and criminal investigation on the media outlet reporting the issue, has a chilling effect on the Anti-Corruption ecosystem. In governance, credibility is not only about outcomes, but about the integrity of the process. When processes appear closed, trust becomes conditional. At the same time, recent developments involving individuals closely associated with the ruling political establishment have raised broader concerns about proximity to power and the potential for influence. Even without formal findings, the perception that political networks may intersect with business interests or state-linked activities is enough to trigger public unease. In governance terms, perception of conflict of interest can be as damaging as conflict itself. These issues are further compounded by ongoing concerns about consistency in enforcement, particularly in high-profile corruption cases. Legal outcomes may be defensible within the framework of law, but when they appear uneven or selective, they shape a public narrative that accountability is not applied equally. This perception, once entrenched, is difficult to reverse.

Beyond domestic issues, the current geopolitical environment also demands a higher standard of transparency and governance. The ongoing conflict OF US – Iran has created global uncertainty, affecting energy markets, trade routes, and regional stability. Disruptions in key corridors such as the Strait of Hormuz highlight how external crises can have direct economic implications for countries like Malaysia. Malaysia has taken a principled stance in calling for de-escalation and diplomatic resolution. However, such external uncertainty also places a responsibility on the government to ensure strong domestic governance, particularly in managing economic risks, ensuring transparency in decision-making, and maintaining public confidence during periods of global instability.

Taken together, these developments point to a central challenge: Malaysia's governance is at a stage where perception and reality are not fully aligned. Improvements in ranking provide an opportunity, but they also raise expectations. The government must now move beyond signalling reform towards demonstrating consistency, transparency, and institutional independence.

Ultimately, credibility cannot be sustained through perception alone. It must be reinforced through clear, accountable, and visible actions. The question facing Malaysia is no longer whether progress is possible, but whether it is prepared to address the deeper structural issues that continue to test public trust.



DR SAHUL HAMID
Executive Committee Member
Transparency International Malaysia



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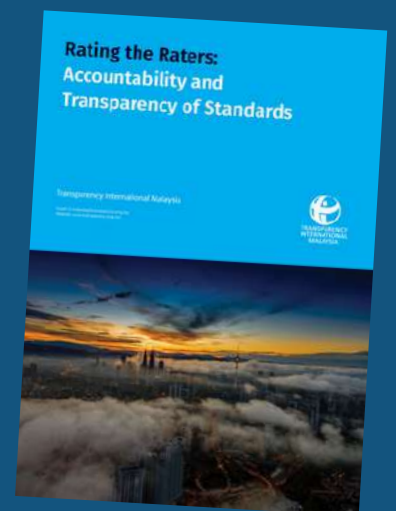
Rating the Raters: Accountability & Transparency

Roundtable Discussion



Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) is proud to launch our latest report, *Rating the Raters: Accountability and Transparency Standards*, under the Climate Governance Integrity Programme with support from the Waverley Street Foundation. This publication evaluates carbon credit rating agencies—the “gatekeepers” of Malaysia’s voluntary carbon market (VCM) to examine whether they uphold integrity, transparency, and accountability. In light of scandals such as Verra’s 2023 integrity crisis, the report sheds light on systemic flaws and the urgent need for stronger safeguards against false emissions claims.

The report was officially unveiled on 12 January 2026 at our Roundtable Discussion in Petaling Jaya, led by Prof. Dato’ Rajah Rasiah and Dr. Puvanesvaran Sanjeev of the Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya. The session brought together stakeholders to discuss challenges and standards in Malaysia’s VCM, reinforcing TI-Malaysia’s mission to advocate for integrity, inclusivity, and accountability in climate governance.



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REPORT HERE](#)





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Webinar Series

Unmasking Corruption in Procurement: Cartels, Collusion & Controls

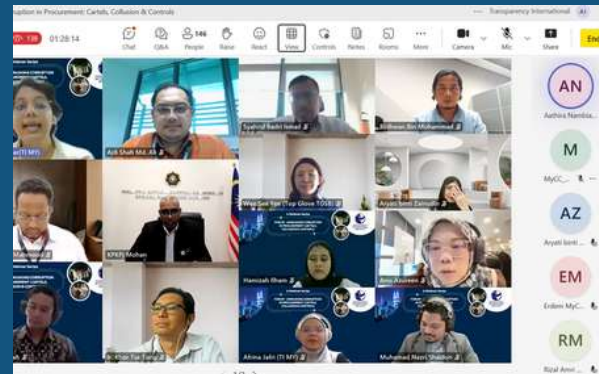
On 21 January 2026, TI-M organized a webinar titled “Unmasking Corruption in Procurement: Cartels, Collusion & Controls” featuring panelists from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC).

The panel discussion was moderated by Mr Muhamad Nazri bin Shaidon, EXCO member of TI-M featured Tuan Mohan Munusamy, Chief Senior Assistant Commissioner of MACC, and Mr. Mohd Hasbullah bin Mohamad Faudzi, Principal Assistant Director of MyCC’s Investigation and Enforcement Division. Over three hours, the session attracted 190 participants and provided valuable insights into integrity, enforcement, and accountability in procurement practice.

The session explored:

- Understanding procurement risks
- The role of MyCC in enforcing competition law
- The role of MACC in combating corruption and abuse of power
- Differences in jurisdiction and opportunities for collaboration between MyCC and MACC

Procurement corruption remains one of the most prevalent and damaging forms of corporate and public-sector fraud. This program highlighted the complementary roles of MACC and MyCC in addressing procurement-related misconduct, while underscoring the importance of collaboration to strengthen accountability and integrity in Malaysia’s procurement systems.





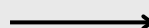
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Parliamentary Secretariat Dialogue (PAC)

Forum on “PAC – Memperkasakan Tadbir Urus Jaminan Akauntabiliti Awam”



On 23 January 2026, TI-M was invited as a panelist at the forum “PAC – *Memperkasakan Tadbir Urus Jaminan Akauntabiliti Awam*” alongside YBhg. Tan Sri Dato’ Setia Haji Ambrin bin Buang, former Ketua Audit Negara, and YBhg. Dato’ Sri Shamshun Baharin bin Mohd Jamil, Ketua Pengarah Pusat Pencegahan Jenayah Kewangan Nasional (NFCC) at the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Se-Malaysia Conference 2026. The discussions highlighted a crucial truth: oversight without correction fails to safeguard public funds. Three themes stood out—PAC credibility depends on follow-through rather than the volume of hearings, procurement leakages can be prevented through tools like Integrity Pacts with Independent Expert Monitors, and defence procurement must balance confidentiality with transparency guided by the Tshwane Principles. The clear takeaway is that Malaysia must move from merely exposing leakages to actively stopping them, with mandatory, time-bound, and trackable implementation of PAC recommendations. The tools to achieve this already exist; what is needed now is the discipline to apply them and enforce consequences when they are ignored.





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Tradewinds Group Integrity Day Forum

Strengthening Integrity for Sustainable Governance



On 26 January 2026, Tradewinds convened a Corporate Governance Forum session titled “Perolehan Berintegriti, Amanah Dihormati” to address integrity in procurement and corporate governance. The dialogue featured Datuk TPj Ahmad Nizam bin Ismail, Director of Community Education at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), and Mr. Raymon Ram, President of TI-M, with En. Mohd Rais bin Ramli of the Malaysian Institute of Integrity (IIM) moderating.

The discussion explored misconduct in corporate procurement, including supply chain and management practices, and examined its wider implications for Malaysia’s economic development. Panelists emphasized that integrity and accountability are essential to building trust in procurement systems, underscoring TI-M’s active role in promoting transparency and MACC’s mandate to combat corruption through education and enforcement. Together, the session highlighted the need for collaboration and vigilance to strengthen governance and safeguard Malaysia’s economic future.



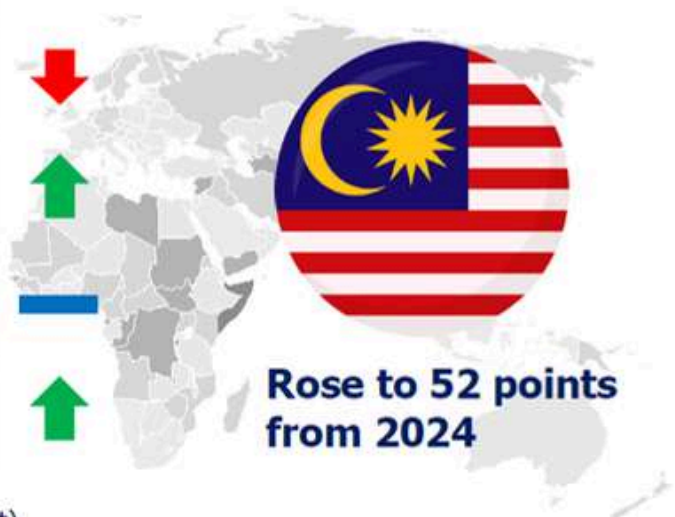
On 28 January 2026, representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) visited the TI-M office. The delegation was represented by Ms. Annika Wythes, Coordinator of the UNODC Regional Corruption and Financial Crime Hub for South-East Asia and the Pacific, and Mr. Vickram Ragunath, National Programme Officer. TI-M has benefited from UNODC's active support over the years through various projects, and this visit further reinforced the strong partnership between both organizations.

Discussions focused on potential areas of collaboration where UNODC could continue to provide valuable assistance. Key topics included strengthening political integrity through deferred prosecution agreements and asset declaration frameworks, conducting research on money mule activities, and advancing climate action initiatives. TI-M also highlighted opportunities to expand work in the voluntary carbon market, ensuring transparency and integrity in climate-related projects. We look forward to working closely with UNODC throughout 2026 to deepen our collaboration and drive impactful initiatives in the fight against corruption.



Malaysia's Score

YEAR	SCORE ¹
2022	47
2023	50
2024	50
2025	52



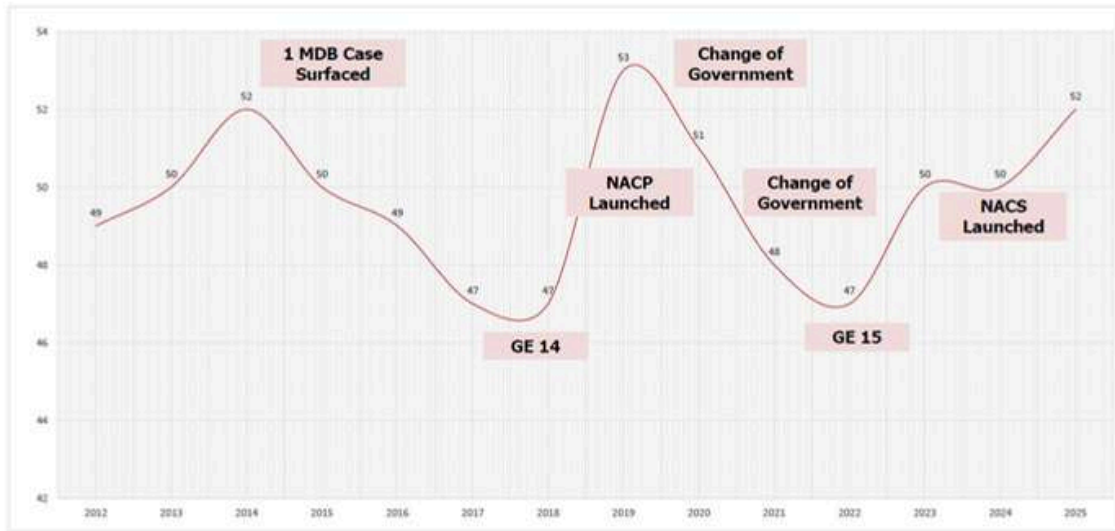
Note: 1. 100 (very clean) to 0 (highly corrupt)

On 10 February 2026, TI-M launched the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 (CPI 2025) at Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club, attended by stakeholders from government, civil society, and the media. Malaysia's CPI score improved by 2 points to 52, with its ranking rising to 54th out of 182 countries, reflecting modest but positive progress.

TI-M President, Mr Raymon Ram, highlighted that the improvement is driven by recent reforms, including stronger fiscal governance, enhanced oversight, and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2024–2028. However, he stressed that this is not yet a turning point, and sustained efforts are needed to reach the top 25 by 2033.

Persistent challenges remain, including procurement risks, weak whistleblower protections, and limited transparency in key sectors. TI-M emphasised the need for continued reforms, strong enforcement, and institutional independence to sustain progress and strengthen public trust.

Malaysia's score – last 14 years





Courtesy Visit to German Embassy

Strengthening Partnerships with Embassies in Malaysia



On 26 February 2026, TI-M, led by President Mr. Raymon Ram and Manager Mr. Justin Jarret, paid a courtesy visit to the German Embassy. The delegation was warmly received by Ms. Lauren Lopez, representing the Embassy. This meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen ties and exchange perspectives on integrity, governance, and anti-corruption efforts.

During the discussion, TI-M shared its ongoing work and advocacy initiatives over the years, presenting key reports and highlighting areas where collaboration could be deepened. Both parties explored potential avenues for future cooperation, with the German Embassy expressing interest in supporting TI-M's mission. The visit marked an important step in fostering international partnerships that advance transparency and integrity in Malaysia.





Courtesy Visit Danish Embassy

Strengthening Partnerships with Embassies in Malaysia



On 3 March 2026, the TI-M team, led by Ms. Nurirdzuana Ismal (Secretary General) together with Mr. Justin Jarret (Manager), Ms. Nur Afrina (Senior Executive, Communications & Project), and Ms. Aathira Nambiar (Accounts and Project Executive), paid a courtesy visit to the Royal Danish Embassy. The team was warmly received by Ambassador Her Excellency Kirstine Vangkilde Berner, and the meeting provided an important platform to exchange views on governance developments in Malaysia. The discussion was wide-ranging, with particular focus on the Ombudsman system, where the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman expressed interest in participating in TI-M's upcoming webinar Towards an Effective Ombudsman for Malaysia: Lessons from Global Best Practices and sharing insights on international practices.

The TI-M team also highlighted recent initiatives, including reports on climate governance and integrity in the voluntary carbon market, corporate liability measures, and efforts to digitalize the adequate procedures checklist. In addition, the dialogue touched on TI-M's Integrity Pact report, emphasizing its importance in strengthening transparency and accountability in Malaysia's public procurement processes. The meeting underscored the value of international collaboration and opened avenues for future joint initiatives between TI-M and the Danish Embassy.



Courtesy Visit to Sweden Embassy

Strengthening Partnerships with Embassies in Malaysia



On 11 March 2026, the TI-M team, led by Mr. Raymon Ram (President) together with Ms Nurirdzuana Ismal (Secretary General), Mr Justin Jarret (Manager), Ms Nur Afrina (Senior Executive, Communications & Project), and Ms Hamizah Ilham (Project Executive), paid a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Sweden. The team was warmly received by Ambassador Niklas Wiberg, and the meeting provided an important platform to exchange views on governance developments in Malaysia.

The discussion was substantive and wide-ranging, covering critical areas such as the Ombudsman system, procurement practices, Auditor-General oversight, and whistleblower protection. We also engaged in a detailed conversation on the broader importance of institutional reforms, reflecting on how these reforms can strengthen democratic governance, enhance accountability, and build greater public trust.

Equally significant was the exploration of how TI-M and the Swedish Embassy can deepen engagement and collaborate further in advancing good governance. The dialogue underscored the potential for future joint initiatives and partnerships, reaffirming Sweden's longstanding commitment to global anti-corruption efforts as a state party to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption since 2007, including contributions to Transparency International through UNODC.



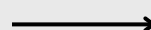
Integrity Day

SD Guthrie, MRANTI, KTMB, EXIM Bank



During the first quarter of 2026, TI-M actively participated in Integrity Day celebrations with SD Guthrie (4 February), MRANTI (13 February), KTMB (16 March), and EXIM Bank (31 March). At SD Guthrie's event, TI-M President Mr. Raymon Ram served as moderator for a leadership discussion session, reinforcing our commitment to fostering dialogue on integrity and governance. Across all events, TI-M set up interactive booths to showcase our mission, share publications, highlight the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), and engage staff through creative activities such as the "Snake & Ladder" integrity game—making learning about anti-corruption both fun and impactful.

The response from all four organizations was overwhelmingly positive, with staff showing strong interest and support for TI-M's advocacy efforts. These engagements not only raised awareness on integrity and anti-corruption topics but also strengthened TI-M's partnerships with each company, paving the way for deeper collaboration and continued impact in the future.







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TI-M 28th Annual General Meeting

Crystal Crown, Petaling Jaya



On 28 March 2026, TI-M held its 28th Annual General Meeting at the Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya, attended by 34 members comprising both individual and corporate representatives. The meeting covered TI-M's 2025 annual and audit reports, policy amendments, the strategic plan, and other arising matters, reflecting the organization's commitment to transparency and accountability. The session concluded with a Raya-themed lunch buffet, where members connected in a festive spirit, and TI-M expressed heartfelt gratitude for their continued support and contributions over the years, which remain vital in driving the organization's mission forward.



COUNTRY	Country Scores		Rank		SCORE
	2025	2024	2025	2024	
Singapore	84	84	3	3	—
Brunei	63	-	31	-	—
Malaysia	52	50	54	57	↑
Timor Leste	44	44	73	73	—
Vietnam	41	40	81	88	↑
Indonesia	34	37	109	99	↓
Thailand	33	34	116	107	↓
Philippines	32	33	120	114	↓
Laos	34	33	109	114	↓
Cambodia	20	21	163	158	↑
Myanmar	16	16	169	168	↓

TI-M's CPI 2025 Slides

Total war on graft needed to achieve 2033 target

By Dr Pola Singh

TI-M Individual Member

12 February 2026

Disclaimer: This article represents the personal opinions of the writer and should not be construed as official statement of Transparency International Malaysia.

MALAYSIA'S climb to 54th place in the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is a welcome signal of progress. With a score of 52, the "small steps" taken by the Madani government are finally yielding a positive, albeit modest, momentum.

But while we acknowledge this improvement, we must not mistake a slight gain for total victory.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has set a target for Malaysia to break into the Top 25 of the CPI by 2033. To achieve this, we need a 16-point surge.

At our current pace, we are merely strolling towards the finish line. We need to break from strolling to sprinting.

Recent cases involving the top brass of the Armed Forces and the Department of Environment are deeply concerning. When those entrusted with our national security and environmental safety are implicated in bribery, they are not merely "bad apples"; they are traitors to the nation.

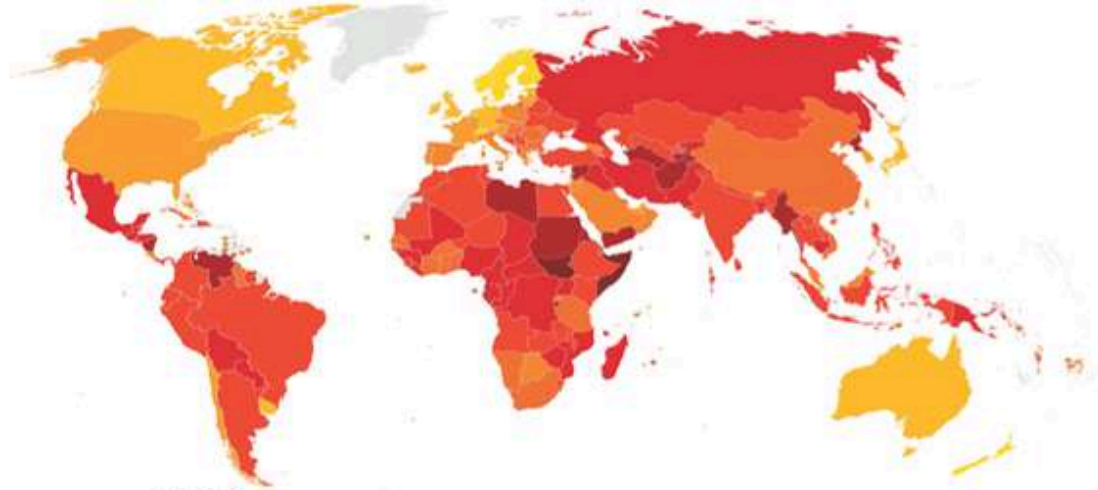
We can no longer dismiss these cases as isolated incidents. As the PM has rightly noted, we are facing a systemic crisis that demands more than just verbal assurances.

We need fast, decisive prosecutions. The government must send a clear message that no rank or title offers a shield against the law. The public is exhausted by the cycle of committees and task forces.

Financial mismanagement must be met with immediate legal consequences. For too long, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and National Audit Department reports have been met with mere reprimands. Issuing a "don't do it again" warning to the perpetrators is an insult to the taxpayer.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 182 countries/territories around the world.



SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY
85	Denmark	54	France	42	Moldova	35	Brazil
83	Finland	53	Lithuania	41	South Africa	35	Sri Lanka
84	Singapore	52	Bahamas	40	Trinidad and Tobago	34	Algeria
81	New Zealand	51	United States of America	39	Vietnam	34	Bosnia and Herzegovina
81	Norway	51	Brunei Darussalam	38	Bulgaria	34	Indonesia
80	Sweden	51	Chile	37	Burkina Faso	34	Laos
80	Switzerland	50	Korea, South	36	Cuba	34	Malawi
79	Luxembourg	49	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	35	Guyana	34	Nepal
79	Netherlands	49	Cabo Verde	34	Hungary	34	Sierra Leone
79	Germany	48	Israel	33	North Macedonia	33	Ecuador
79	Iceland	48	Dominica	32	Tanzania	33	Paraguay
79	Australia	48	Armenia	31	Albania	33	Serbia
79	Estonia	48	Latvia	30	India	33	Thailand
79	Hong Kong	48	Czechia	30	Maldives	32	Angola
79	Ireland	48	Montenegro	30	Morocco	32	El Salvador
79	Canada	48	Namibia	30	Tunisia	32	Philippines
79	Uruguay	48	Qatar	30	Ethiopia	32	Togo
79	Bhutan	48	Rwanda	30	Kazakhstan	31	Belarus
79	Japan	48	Slovenia	30	Romania	31	Ojibouti
79	United Kingdom	48	Saudi Arabia	30	Sao Tome and Principe	31	Mongolia
79	Austria	48	Costa Rica	30	Jamaica	31	Niger
79	Belgium	48	Solomon Islands	30	Dominican Republic	31	Dominican Republic
79	United Arab Emirates	48	Timor-Leste	30	Gambia	31	Republic of Congo
79	Barbados	48	China	30	Levoto	31	Iran
79	Seychelles	48	Cote d'Ivoire	30	Zambia	30	Turkey
79	Taiwan	48	Ghana	30	Argentina	30	Uzbekistan
		48	Italy	30	Belize	30	Azerbaijan
		48	Rosovo	30	Ukraine	30	Egypt
							Honduras
							Russia
							Mauretania
							Zimbabwe
							Guinea Bissau
							Mozambique
							Cambodia
							Comoros
							Democratic Republic of the Congo
							Tajikistan
							Burundi
							Turkmenistan
							Afghanistan
							Haiti
							Myanmar
							Equatorial Guinea
							Korea, North
							Syria
							Nicaragua
							Sudan
							Eritrea
							Libya
							Yemen
							Venezuela
							Somalia
							South Sudan

Transparency International's CPI 2025 materials

Total war on graft needed to achieve 2033 target

Annual asset declarations for all public servants must be made compulsory. Transparency is the only effective disinfectant for systemic greed.

The proposed Special High Court for corruption must be set up immediately. It must be granted absolute judicial independence and shielded from any political or institutional interference to ensure the swift disposal of long-standing cases.

The time for hesitation and half-measures is over; we must now commit to an uncompromising offensive against corruption. The rakyat, the ultimate judges of this administration's success, are no longer in a mood to be forgiving, nor are people content to wait until 2033 for a clean Malaysia. Let us reach our target sooner.



Credit: Canva Source

SELECTIVE & BIASED REPORTING: ENABLERS AND DRIVERS OF CORRUPTION

By Dr Geetha A. Rubasundram

Treasurer,

Transparency International Malaysia

Disclaimer: This article represents the personal opinions of the writer and should not be construed as official statement of Transparency International Malaysia.

The current international conflicts have definitely emphasized the phenomenon of selective and biased reporting involving media and political figures. Although this has been concern from before, the question raised would be how much can we trust in terms of these reports, information and statements. This growing pandemic is a concern as selective and biased reporting are enablers and drivers of political corruption.

One consideration can be that the media and reporters are bearing the brunt of being oppressed. The 2025 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) reflect that more than 50% of the worlds population live in countries with serious issues in terms of the freedom of the press (referring to 4.25 billion people in 42 countries). Whilst many of them do come from developing or least developed countries, it should not be based on a limited perspective believing that developed countries do not have these issues. It is important that we also consider the political and legal loopholes that make up the constraints within the “legal corruption” perspective especially from these developed countries that can set international precedence. There is also the possibility of intense political lobbying, funding and influencing that could also include certain media giants to swing either way that would be advantageous to themselves and their cronies, amplified with the use of AI for fake reporting. Let’s be honest – how much do we rely and trust the sources from where we read our daily news or is everything just a “conspiracy theory”?

On a local front, Malaysia has also been under intense scrutiny over many years and unfortunately corruption has become systemically embedded within our systems over the years. Indexes and statistics in the recent years have shown that Malaysia has improved in areas related to combating corruption. But, does it truly reflect the ground reality? In the same 2025 World Press Freedom Index, it was reported that Malaysia had strengthened its position by 19 spots to reach the 88th place, trailing behind Thailand that had ranked 85 as compared to other ASEAN countries. Singapore is ranked 123rd which is consistent with its Voice & Accountability (VA) scores in the Worldwide Governance Index (WGI). The Transparency International 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index also reflects that although Malaysia has jumped to the 54th place from being 57th in the previous year, it still remains behind Singapore and Brunei. Singapore is ironically seen as a “good governance” role model in the remaining scores based on parameters that are largely reflective of Western perspectives.



Credit: Canva Source

These scores and indexes have their own limitations and subjectivity. Whilst the methodologies can be criticized, it is also equally important to address that the nature of corruption remains hidden and secretive which makes it hard to identify and measure. However, it is also important to ensure that the right parameters and considerations reflecting the local corruption based culture is embedded.

In conclusion, whilst the world and public maybe screaming for transparency; it does not seem to be a genuinely highly ranked political agenda anywhere.

Politicians and their cronies have loads to loose if certain reports are made public but with many who seem to rely heavily on their connections, they are willing to take the political gamble. Combining this with the various legal and regulatory loopholes, one can only hope for more whistleblower's to come forth. However, even this can be easily manipulated with the whistleblower's also facing discrimination and threats. The rather outdated notion of relying on mankind's moral and religious beliefs to make the right decisions seem to have faced a natural death; leading us to focus more of putting the "stick" before the "carrot". Either way, the perspective of viewing corruption as business as usual is unfortunately still prevalent around the world. The economics of crimes somehow still favor the corrupt – the payment of penalties and fines and tools such as the Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA's) may somehow motivate more cases to come forth but overall, the main culprits could manipulate these outcomes especially in those countries with high judicial corruption or hiding behind convenient tools like Non Disclosure Agreements (NDA) or Official Secrets Act. Reforms have been suggested and well, we are slowly moving forward as a nation. But, for every reform put forward, unfortunately another loophole gets identified and used. Similarly, how can we expect the very persons that would want to commit a crime and get away with it to come up with a strong solution that would incriminate them eventually?

The sense of urgency needs to be there. A greater use of e-participation in Malaysia would definitely help. More needs to be done in terms of features, information and call to action as well challenge the norms. I reiterate – do we trust what we read and are we enabling and driving corruption with this ignorance and acceptance of manipulation? One can only reflect on the work of Hofstede and Malaysia's score in the Power Distance category to wonder have we truly progressed since 1970's?

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World Press Freedom Index 2025: Over Half the Worlds Population in Red Zones <https://rsf.org/en/world-press-freedom-index-2025-over-half-worlds-population-red-zones>

TI-M BI-MONTHLY WEBINAR

UPCOMING

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA

WEBINAR

TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE OMBUDSMAN FOR MALAYSIA: LESSONS FROM GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES

PANELISTS



Mr Nazri Shaidon
Moderator
Exco Member
TI-Malaysia



YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Ismail Hj. Bakar
Chairman,
Enforcement Agency
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Mr Klavs Kinnerup Hede
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22 April 2026

TI-M IN THE NEWS

January, February, March



Ombudsman crucial for freedom of information law

Faiz Ruzman | Tuesday, 6 Jan 2026, 7:20 am

PETALING JAYA: Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) has welcomed the government's plan to introduce a Freedom of Information (FOI) law but warned it will only be effective if paired with an independent ombudsman empowered to enforce disclosure and investigate maladministration.

TI-M president Raymon Ram said independent oversight is crucial to prevent public access to information from being left to the discretion of the very agencies expected to release it.

Political financing — protect small donors, name the big ones, says TI-M

Transparency International Malaysia cites international examples to illustrate how the law can be used to prevent donors from exerting undue influence over political parties.

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- 3 Posing man in viral RM999 container-lifting incident cleared

Face to face: Trust on trial

By SYED UMAR ARIFF
Sunday, 18 Jan 2026

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- BRUNEI: 19 Mar 2026 Brunei supports efforts to combat transnational fraud
- INDONESIA: 16 Mar 2026 Indonesia firms in palm oil fraud probe supplied fuel majors

Treading water: While the perception of corruption in Malaysia is not deteriorating sharply, it is not improving either, says Raymon. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star

Malaysia needs real-time oversight for high-value projects, says PAC

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman Datuk Mas Ermeyyoti Saravasin - BERHAPANA (Wapic)

T.C. Khar | Wednesday, 4 Feb 2026, 8:00 am

TI-M IN THE NEWS

January, February, March

Top officials' arrests expose systemic governance failures, say watchdogs

1 MONTH AGO

Allysa Edward and Kirihana Anumagan

Anti-graft groups TI-M and C4 call for sweeping reforms to eradicate systemic corruption at the highest levels of government.



When top officials at the helm of governmental government are implicated, it signals that internal oversight mechanisms have failed, says Transparency International Malaysia. (Gleaner.com)

PETALING JAYA: The recent arrests and indictments of senior government officials have exposed deep cracks in the nation's governance system, highlighting regulatory gaps at the highest levels, according to two corruption watchdogs.

Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) said investigations into top figures from the environment department and the armed forces suggest systemic weaknesses across the entire civil service.

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- 1 **Pair robbed over level acts at Chinese cemetery**
- 2 **RONPV unsubsidised RONPVs rise 60 sen, diesel up 80 sen in West Malaysia**
- 3 **Penang street in viral RONPVs container-tilt incident cleared**
- 4 **Retiree to last used Jase, says Pethalaya**
- 5 **Google leads filing petty cases with RONPVs faces identity probe**

SPECIAL FEATURES

Top 5 at 5: Malaysia Moves Up on Global Corruption Index

Quoted: Raymon Ram (President), Transparency International Malaysia

Malaysia just climbed three places in the latest Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), released by Transparency International on the 10th of February. Out of 182 countries, Malaysia moved to the 54th place, improving from 57th place last year - and now ranks third among ASEAN countries in the CPI, behind Singapore and Brunei. We dive into the report with Raymon Ram, president of Transparency International Malaysia. Click to at 24:23

Harizog goes home: Israel President Isaac Herzog ended a 4-day visit to Australia to commemorate victims of the Bnei Brach mass shooting, his presence drew opposition from all over, with over 10,000 protestors gathered in Sydney and Melbourne. Kanan Wong, a journalist based in Sydney, shares his on-the-ground experience of the rally. Starts at 07:51

NEW STRAITS TIMES BUSINESS TIMES

Trending: Heard the News? Hari Raya exodus Penang cemetery Diesel price hike Urn thefts Victor Chin Mi

Graft watchdog calls for independent probe over Bloomberg allegations

By **Hakim Mahari** February 13, 2026 @ 3:15pm

Reforms key to Malaysia's improved CPI rankings, says Chief Secretary

By **FARK ZOLKEPLI**
Saturday, 14 Feb 2026 | 9:27 PM MYT

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BRUNEI: 20h ago
Brunei's CPI down 0.3 per cent in February year-on-year

WORLD 17 Mar 2026

Malaysia's anti-graft progress stalls amid MACC controversies

Harith Kamal | Tuesday, 17 Feb 2026, 7:00 am

Transparency International warns Malaysia's corruption fight risks plateauing without deeper institutional reforms to insulate agencies from political influence.

PETALING JAYA: Recent controversies surrounding the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) have thrown the country's anti-graft fight into the spotlight, raising urgent questions about institutional independence and the unfinished nature of reforms, according to Transparency International Malaysia president Raymon Ram.

NATION

Act fast on issues raised in AG's report, urge groups

By **TARRENCE TAN** and **RAHIMY RAHIM**
Friday, 27 Feb 2026 | 3:41 PM MYT

PETALING JAYA: Civil society anti-graft bodies are calling for immediate corrective measures and follow up on all of the issues raised in the Auditor-General's Report (AG's Report) 1/2026.

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The Star
Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) president Raymon Ram said on the AG's Report's findings on the MyDigital ID project, substantial unreturned research grant balances and failure to safeguard government intellectual property are not isolated administrative oversights.

TI-M IN THE NEWS

January, February, March

Publish MPs' Dewan attendance records, says TI-M

22 DAYS AGO
FMY Reporters

Transparency International also calls for MPs to give written reasons for their absence during key votes, after the failure of the 10-year PM term limit bill.



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Parliamentary absenteeism cannot be normalised, says Transparency International

By Jean MacKillop / theedgemalaysia.com 04 Mar 2026, 11:11 am

Wishing Our Muslim Readers SELAMAT HARI RAYA AIDILFITRI Maaf Zahir dan Batin

0:00 / 3:02



The Politics of Clean Governance

Guest: Raymon Ram (President), Transparency International Malaysia

Malaysia's anti-corruption framework is back under the spotlight, with the MACC proposing three new laws which include targeting misconduct in public office, regulating NGO donations, and long-delayed political financing reform. Raymon Ram, President of Transparency International Malaysia talks about what these proposals could mean in practice.

Image Credit: Shutterstock

Presenter: Shazana Mokhtar, Keith Kam
Producer: Agnes Ong

Public Office Misconduct Act, NGO Funds, Political Financing, Malicious and corruptor commission, Intimidation, Judicial Training, and Governance

CREATE YOUR OWN PLAYLIST!

The Anti-Corruption Commission is willing to cooperate with the Inland Revenue Department to investigate undeclared offshore accounts.



After digging for 15 hours, everyone was shocked.

February 6 2026 3142 views

(Kuala Lumpur, 3rd) The Anti-Corruption Commission is preparing to launch a joint investigation with the Inland Revenue Board into potential corruption involving undeclared offshore financial accounts.

This move aligns with an earlier call from an anti-corruption watchdog that relevant government departments should work together to investigate potential corruption and money laundering activities.

The Inland Revenue Board issued a statement yesterday indicating that 14,858 Malaysian taxpayers residing in 100 countries and regions have offshore financial accounts with a total balance exceeding RM10 billion but have failed to file income tax returns (BNCF).

Editor in charge: Frontline rep.