



TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL  
MALAYSIA

# NEWSLETTER



A NATION FREE OF CORRUPTION,  
A SOCIETY BUILT ON INTEGRITY

Volume 57 (March-June 2025). KDN Permit No: 11959/03/2019 (025399)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends and fellow advocates for integrity,

It is an honour to serve as the President of Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) for the 2025 to 2027 term. This first edition of our quarterly newsletter marks more than a leadership transition—it reflects our collective commitment to build on past efforts and strengthen integrity across every sector of Malaysian society.

As Malaysia assumes the Chair of ASEAN, we do so at a time when global expectations around good governance, transparency and accountability are accelerating. This moment offers Malaysia an opportunity to lead by example—not only at home but across the region.

Over the past few months, TI-M has engaged directly with key stakeholders, including the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department (BHEUU). These discussions have focused on long-standing reform priorities such as strengthening whistleblower protection, reinforcing prosecutorial independence and improving procurement governance.

TI-M is also working to realign our national strategy with the broader goals of the Transparency International Secretariat in Berlin. This ensures our advocacy remains globally relevant while responsive to local realities. In parallel, we are initiating a series of educational forums for our corporate members, aimed at strengthening ethical business practices and internal governance.

As we pursue these reforms, we also recognise the role of technology as a key enabler. From increasing access to information to improving monitoring and reporting systems, digital tools can support our shared mission—when used transparently, responsibly and with the public interest in mind.

Looking ahead to Malaysia's goal of reaching the top 25 in the Corruption Perceptions Index by 2033, we must stay focused on long-term reform: independent institutions, consistent enforcement and a culture of integrity that is not merely declared, but lived.

To our members, partners and supporters—thank you. Your continued trust, engagement and collaboration remain central to everything we do.

Let us move forward—together—with clarity, conviction and purpose.

**Raymon Ram**

**President**

**Transparency International Malaysia**



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# EDITORIAL

## **Strengthening the Pillars of Good Governance: The Road Ahead for TI-M**

*Dr Sahul Hamid, Editor, TI-M Newsletter*

This year marks a new chapter for Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), and we are proud to introduce our newly elected Executive Committee for the 2025 to 2027 term, led by President Raymon Ram. With professional backgrounds in anti-money laundering, legal reform, financial forensics, education and governance, this team brings both technical expertise and a deep commitment to the fight against corruption.

Since March, we have hit the ground running. Our first courtesy call to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) set the tone—TI-M will continue to advocate boldly for systemic reform. We have renewed calls for progress on the separation of the Attorney General and Public Prosecutor roles, comprehensive whistleblower protection, political financing transparency and the introduction of a robust Procurement Act.



Yet, we acknowledge the challenges ahead. Recent Discharge Not Amounting to Acquittal (DNAA) decisions in major graft cases have unsettled public trust. While these outcomes follow legal processes, they signal the urgent need to restore confidence in our justice system through reform that is principled and transparent.

We commend the recent operationalisation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2024–2028, especially the launch of the NACS Dashboard by the MACC. This is a positive step towards greater transparency and public accountability. However, while the framework is promising, its success depends on political will and enforcement strength. Independent oversight, separation of prosecutorial powers and stronger whistleblower mechanisms remain critical and must not be delayed further.

At the core of the anti-corruption movement lies the balance between political leadership and public awareness. Real change requires not only policy reform but a society that is informed, engaged and unwilling to accept corruption as the norm. Civic education, public engagement and youth empowerment are just as vital as legislation.

As editor—and as a fellow Malaysian who believes in this mission—I encourage you to stay informed, stay critical and stay involved. The fight for a just and accountable Malaysia belongs to all of us.

Let us move forward together with courage, clarity and conviction.

**DR SAHUL HAMID**

**EXCO**

**Transparency International Malaysia**





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## 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025

Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya



On 15 March 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) held its 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya, with 50 members of TI-M attending the meeting.

The AGM began with presentations by the 2023-2025 executive committee, highlighting the annual report and audited accounts for 2024, which detailed the organization's achievements and challenges across multiple projects.



Following the presentations, an election was held to appoint the new executive committee for the 2025-2027 term. We are pleased to introduce the newly elected leadership team, which remains committed to fostering a corruption-free society in Malaysia.





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## Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025

### New Executive Committee (2025-2027)

#### New Executive Committee for 2025-2027

- President: Raymon Ram
- Deputy President: Chew Phye Keat
- Secretary General: Nurirdzuana Ismail
- Treasurer: Dr. Geetha Rubasundram

#### Committee Members:

- Dr. Sahul Hamid
- Muhamad Nazri Shaidon
- Fareedah Kamarulzaman
- Zalily Zaman Khan
- Balbeer Singh
- Nisha Kamilla



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected committee and sincere gratitude to the 2023-2025 executive team for their dedication and contributions to the organization.

Additionally, we sincerely appreciate our members and stakeholders' continued support of TI-M's mission. With this new leadership, Transparency International Malaysia remains steadfast in its commitment to combating corruption and advancing integrity nationwide.







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## TI-Malaysia's Participation in the OECD Event on Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Paris, France.



On 27 March 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) was honoured to participate in the OECD event, "Fostering Integrity Policies and Strengthening Anti-Corruption Frameworks in Asia-Pacific", held at the OECD headquarters in Paris, France. Representing TI-M were Ms. Nurirdzuana Ismail (Secretary-General) and Mr. Asyraf Shaadan (Project Executive). The event gathered a diverse group of stakeholders, including civil society representatives, business leaders, and policymakers, to discuss strategies for enhancing integrity and combating corruption across the Asia-Pacific region. During the roundtable discussions on public integrity disclosures and a panel session, Ms. Nurirdzuana and Mr. Asyraf contributed valuable insights, particularly on TI-Malaysia's Collective Action Project with the State Assembly of Terengganu.

Mr. Asyraf highlighted the project's successful outcomes, emphasizing how the dashboard created for the initiative has been effectively utilized by local communities in Terengganu. The project has emerged as a model for other countries, with several stakeholders interested in adopting a similar approach for their local governance initiatives. TI-M remains committed to advancing transparency and integrity through collaborative efforts and knowledge-sharing at the national and international levels.



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## Air Selangor's Courtesy Visit to TI-M's office



On 9 April 2025, we had the honour of hosting a courtesy visit from our esteemed partners at Air Selangor. The delegation included Ms. Liow Bin Wey (Vice President II), Mr. Zafran Farazeeq Bin Nazri (Assistant Vice President II), Mr. Zainul Aznam Bin Kamarul Bahrain (Associate II), Ms. Nur Syuhaida Mustapha (Associate II), and Mr. Syaiful Amri Bin Hassan (Acting Associate III).

During the visit, our President, Mr. Raymon Ram, and Manager, Mr. Justin Jarret, presented a comprehensive overview of TI-M's achievements and upcoming initiatives. Air Selangor was briefed as a valued corporate member on the exclusive benefits and strategic opportunities we have designed for our corporate partners. The session also fostered a productive discussion on Malaysia's ongoing reform initiatives, emphasizing TI-M's advocacy efforts in driving integrity and transparency. Additionally, we explored the exciting prospect of collaborating on Air Selangor's Integrity Day event, an initiative we proudly support and eagerly anticipate.

We remain committed to providing valuable guidance to enhance governance and integrity standards within our corporate network and look forward to strengthening our partnership with Air Selangor in the journey toward a corruption-free Malaysia.





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## National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS): From Policy to Practice

– *Strengthening Integrity in Public Service*



On 14 April 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), in collaboration with The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Sarawak Integrity and Ombudsman Unit (UNIONS), hosted a workshop titled National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS): From Policy to Practice – Strengthening Integrity in Public Service.

The workshop brought together 54 participants to enhance their understanding of anti-corruption strategy development and assessment, equip Sarawak's civil servants with practical tools for policy implementation, and build capacity to regulate and prevent corrupt practices. Additionally, discussions focused on future collaboration opportunities to strengthen governance based on Malaysia's NACS (2024-2028) strategies.









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# Anti-Bribery Policy Development and Implementation

16–17 April 2025 at Mercure Miri Hotel, Sarawak



Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), in collaboration with UNODC and UNIONS, successfully hosted a two-day workshop on Anti-Bribery Policy Development and Implementation on 16–17 April 2025 at Mercure Miri Hotel, Sarawak, attended by 30 participants.

The workshop focused on strengthening anti-bribery policies, compliance frameworks, and ethical governance while fostering a culture of transparency and accountability. The event was honored by Deputy Minister Dato' Murshid Diraja Dr. Juanda Bin Jaya, whose continued support reinforces the fight against corruption in Sarawak.





Led by Ms. Nurirdzuana Ismail (TI-M Secretary-General) and Hajah S. Normalis Abd Samad (Integrity and Risk Management Expert), the workshop covered key governance principles, including policy design, auditing, reporting, and corrective measures, alongside an introduction to ISO 37001 and international best practices. Participants engaged in case studies, group audit exercises, and discussions, gaining practical insights to enhance integrity within their organizations.

TI-M hopes these learnings will translate into more substantial anti-corruption efforts and improved governance in professional practices.







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## The Role of Risk Assessment for Enhancing Integrity in Public Sector Governance.

24 and 25 April at Grand Millennium Hotel, Kuala Lumpur



On 24 and 25 April 2025, newly graduated Certified Integrity Officers (CEIOs) from Sarawak convened at the Grand Millennium Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, for a workshop titled "The Role of Risk Assessment for Enhancing Integrity in Public Sector Governance." This event, organized by Transparency International Malaysia, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Integrity and Ombudsman Unit Sarawak (UNIONS), provided a comprehensive platform to deepen understanding of risk assessment's role in promoting ethical behaviour, examine challenges in implementing effective strategies for compliance, and propose a robust risk-based integrity monitoring framework for public sector agencies.

We were privileged to welcome esteemed speakers, including Ms Sandeep Judge, Head of Bilateral Diplomacy at the British High Commission Kuala Lumpur, who delivered a compelling keynote address. Mr Raymon Ram, President of Transparency International Malaysia provided welcoming remarks, followed by opening speeches from Mr Erik van der Veen, UNODC Representative to ASEAN and Head of Programme Office Indonesia, and Tuan Wan Mohamad bin Wan Drahman, Director of the Integrity and Ombudsman Unit, Office of the Premier of Sarawak, setting an insightful tone for the discussions ahead.





The first day's sessions were led by Ms Nurirdzuana Ismail, Secretary-General of Transparency International Malaysia, who provided a thought-provoking presentation on Ethics and Compliance Culture in Organizations. Following this, Mr Raymon Ram, conducted an engaging session on Corruption Risk Assessment. Both sessions were further enriched by interactive group activities that encouraged active participation and collaboration.

The second day featured a highly engaging panel discussion, "The Challenges of a CEO: Facing Obstacles in the Pursuit of Integrity," moderated by Mr Justin Jarret. The discussion brought together distinguished panellists, including Mr Nik Azmir Nik Anis, Group Chief Compliance Officer & Group Chief Integrity & Governance Officer at Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad, Ms Chuah Yean Ping, Certified Integrity Officer, and Ms Nurirdzuana Ismail, Secretary-General of Transparency International Malaysia, who shared invaluable insights on the complexities of maintaining ethical standards and overcoming challenges in integrity governance.

As we celebrate our 40 newly graduated CEOs, we wish for their success in upholding integrity practices and culture within their respective organizations in Sarawak. The valuable insights from this workshop and lessons from real-world experiences shared during panel discussions will empower them to become exemplary integrity officers. Their commitment to ethical governance will undoubtedly strengthen transparency and accountability across the public sector.





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## Roundtable Discussion on Prospective Policy Proposals for Voluntary Carbon Markets in Malaysia in Kuching

5 May at Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak



On 5 May 2025, we hosted our fourth Roundtable Discussion on Prospective Policy Proposals for Voluntary Carbon Markets in Malaysia at Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak, led by Mr. Ho Yi Jian, who presented key findings from previous roundtables in Kuala Lumpur and Sabah. The session provided valuable insights into existing carbon projects in Sarawak, highlighting challenges and opportunities while fostering awareness among newcomers in the field. Bringing together 21 experts and stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, the discussion encouraged meaningful exchanges of insights on policy development, and raising crucial concerns that needs to be carefully addressed such as the integrity standards and practices implemented by the project developers. The discussion played a vital role in strengthening efforts to shape Malaysia's voluntary carbon market policies.





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## UNCAC Awareness and Implementation Workshop for Civil Society in Malaysia

8 May at Armada Hotel, Petaling Jaya



Corruption remains a significant challenge in Southeast Asia, affecting governance and enabling organized crime, making the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) a crucial global framework for addressing these issues. Having completed two UNCAC review cycles, Malaysia continues to strengthen its anti-corruption efforts.

On 8 May 2025, UNODC and Transparency International Malaysia hosted the UNCAC Awareness and Implementation Workshop for Civil Society, bringing together 45 participants from 30 civil society organizations (CSOs) working in anti-corruption, environmental protection, human rights, and migrant/refugee advocacy. Mr. Justin Jarret, Manager of TI-Malaysia, opened the workshop with a session on corruption and crime linkages. At the same time, Ms. Annika Wythes, UNODC Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser, led discussions on UNCAC review cycles and follow-up actions. The workshop aimed to equip CSOs with practical knowledge and strategies to strengthen their anti-corruption advocacy, fostering meaningful change across various sectors.









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## Landmark Report Launch (Climate and Governance Integrity Program)

### *Integrity and GESI Outcomes in the Emerging Voluntary Carbon Market in Malaysia*

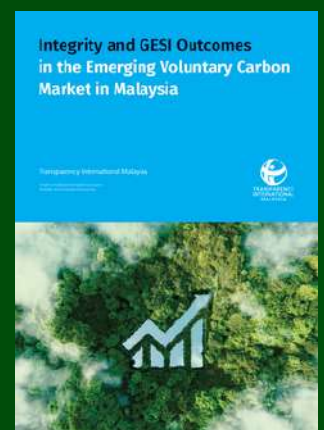


On 30 May 2025, Transparency International Malaysia proudly launched its landmark report on the Integrity and Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Outcomes in Malaysia's Emerging Voluntary Carbon Market. This initiative is developed under TI-Malaysia's Climate Governance Integrity Programme with support from the Waverley Street Foundation, highlights both the opportunities and governance risks facing Malaysia's voluntary carbon market (VCM), which has gained momentum since the launch of the Bursa Carbon Exchange (BCX) in 2022. While the market holds strong potential, the report warns of critical gaps in transparency, oversight, grievance mechanisms, and the meaningful inclusion of women, Indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups.

Malaysia has the potential to lead in climate finance, but integrity, accountability, and inclusivity must be at its core. TI-Malaysia's latest report highlights the governance risks facing the voluntary carbon market and calls for urgent action.

#### Key Highlights:

- ✓ Limited transparency on environmental and social impact assessments, revenue-sharing models, and beneficial ownership data.
- ✓ Lack of national grievance mechanisms, leaving affected communities dependent on foreign or project-led systems.
- ✓ Weak Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) integration, increasing the risk of excluding vulnerable groups.
- ✓ Urgent need for long-term, locally driven capacity-building to support Indigenous- and women-led climate projects.



**[CLICK HERE FOR  
FULL REPORT](#)**





## Policy Recommendations:

- ◆ Stronger anti-corruption safeguards, including enhanced due diligence, more explicit conflict-of-interest rules, and corporate whistleblower mechanisms.
- ◆ Greater transparency and independent oversight involving civil society, media, and local communities.
- ◆ A shift from box-checking compliance to people-centred approaches, prioritizing social and environmental integrity over transaction volume.

Malaysia can set a regional benchmark—but integrity and inclusion must be non-negotiable foundations, not afterthoughts.





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## Courtesy Visit to Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)

### *TI-Malaysia Engages MACC in Strategic Anti-Corruption Dialogue*



11 June 2025 – Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) paid a courtesy visit to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), introducing its newly appointed committee for the 2025–2027 term.

Led by Mr. Raymon Ram (President), the delegation included Mr. Chew Phye Keat (Deputy President), Ms Nurirdzuana Ismail (Secretary), Dr. Geetha Rubasundram (Treasurer), and Mr. Justin Bryann Jarret (Manager).

During the meeting, Transparency International Malaysia and MACC engaged in a meaningful exchange on advancing anti-corruption reforms in Malaysia. Discussions focused on strengthening whistleblower protection, enhancing procurement transparency, reinforcing Integrity Pacts, separating prosecutorial powers, and boosting accountability through legislative and institutional improvements. TI-M also emphasized the importance of structural reform within the MACC, including transparent leadership appointments and parliamentary oversight. The dialogue reaffirmed a shared commitment to good governance and Malaysia's goal of achieving a Top 25 ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index by 2030.







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## TI-Malaysia Connects with the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy (MACA) and postgraduate students from UKM-SPRM's Master of Social Science (Corruption Studies), Session 2024/2025



On 17 June, Transparency International Malaysia had the privilege of visiting the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy (MACA) as part of its Benchmarking Project (Projek Penanda Aras).

TI-M was represented by Mr. Chew Phye Keat (Deputy President), Ms. Fareedah Kamarulzaman (Exco Member), and Mr. Justin Bryann Jarret (Manager), who engaged in meaningful dialogue with postgraduate students from UKM-SPRM's Master of Social Science (Corruption Studies), Session 2024/2025.

We sincerely thank MACA and the students for their enthusiasm and interest in TI-M's mission. We look forward to supporting and witnessing the impact of this emerging generation of integrity champions.



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## EXIM Bank's Control Function Carnival (CFC) 2025



On 25 June 2025, Transparency International Malaysia had the privilege of participating in EXIM Bank's Control Function Carnival 2025, proudly highlighting our commitment to integrity, accountability, and the fight against corruption.

This meaningful initiative aims to enhance employee awareness of internal control functions serving as the second line of defence—including the Audit and Assurance Department, Risk Management Department, Compliance Department, and the Integrity and Investigation Department.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who visited our booth, exchanged ideas, and supported our mission. Your engagement inspires us to continue championing transparency and good governance.

We look forward to building on this partnership with EXIM Bank in the future.





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## Roundtable Discussion With The Industry Associations And Chambers Of Commerce On Corruption Perception Index (CPI)

*By The Ministry Of Investment, Trade And Industry (MITI)*



On 4 July 2025, Transparency International Malaysia participated in MITI's Roundtable Discussion on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) at Sunway Putra Hotel, represented by Mr. Chew Phye Keat and Ms. Nur Afrina binti Mohd Jafri. The event gathered business leaders and industry bodies to explore strategies for boosting Malaysia's CPI ranking under the national goal of entering the global top 25 by 2033.

Key presentations included MACC's long-term anti-corruption vision, TI-Malaysia's review of CPI progress and reform needs, and MIDA's efforts to strengthen investor confidence through transparency and governance. Notably, MACC aims to achieve a top 28 CPI ranking by 2028 through coordinated agency efforts and structural reforms.

The session reinforced the private sector's role in driving good governance, highlighting the importance of proactive disclosure, institutional accountability, and regulatory clarity. Participants were encouraged to strengthen internal integrity mechanisms to help Malaysia build investor trust and uphold global standards.

We applaud MITI for organizing this engagement as it marks a significant milestone in uniting industry leaders toward shared goals of transparency, good governance, and improved international perception of Malaysia's integrity landscape.



*Construction booms on one side while a line of people waits on barren land, depicting the unequal access to development. Illustration: Yamrote Alemu*

## **How to ensure transparency in land governance to counter grand corruption: A practical guide**

Grand corruption in land governance isn't just about stolen property – it's about stolen futures.

### **Transparency International**

*Land Portal Foundation*

22 April 2025

When public land is quietly handed to private interests, entire communities are displaced, forests fall, and wealth concentrates in the hands of a few. At the heart of this crisis lies one constant: Corruption. So, how do we fight back? Transparency isn't just a buzzword – it's a powerful, practical tool. Transparency is a fundamental principle and a condition for accountability and reform. The [2024 Corruption Perceptions Index](#) made that crystal clear, spotlighting how corruption is stalling climate action. In this context, growing collaborations like with the [Land Portal Foundation](#) and tools like the [State of Land Information \(SOLI\) Index](#), offer a clear path forward.

Here's your step-by-step guide on how to ensure transparency in land governance and make it count in the fight against grand corruption.

### **Step 1: Understand the problem – Corruption thrives in the dark**

Grand corruption in land governance thrives on secrecy and weak oversight. In countries like Cambodia, Brazil, and Ghana, there have been cases where powerful actors exploited legal loopholes and institutional gaps to quietly transfer land into private hands. This abuse of high-level power often involves organised schemes, untraceable deals, and restricted access to information – making it difficult for watchdogs, journalists, and communities to intervene. Despite its severe impact on public resources and human rights, grand corruption often goes unpunished. Tackling it demands transparency, strong legal frameworks, independent oversight, and an active civil society. But the damage isn't limited to people and institutions – it extends to the environment. These corrupt practices aren't just displacing communities; they're also devastating ecosystems. In Brazil, for example, land registries have been manipulated and court decisions sold to legitimise land grabbing in the Amazon, fuelling illegal deforestation and deepening public mistrust. Across contexts, deforestation becomes both a consequence and cover for corruption, with opaque land systems enabling elites to profit at the expense of forests and frontline communities.

### **Step 2: Use tools like the SOLI index to diagnose transparency gaps**

The State of Land Information (SOLI) Index, developed by the Land Portal Foundation, evaluates how accessible and complete land-related data is in countries across Africa and Latin America. It looks at two key elements:

- Completeness: Does the government collect essential land data (ownership, tenure, use, value)?
- Openness: Is that data actually available online, free of charge, and easy to use?





*A dense informal settlement borders a clean waterway and open land, highlighting urban expansion and inequality.  
Illustration: Yamrote Alemu*

The latest SOLI findings are sobering: in most countries, essential land data is missing or unpublished, creating a perfect storm for corruption. When compared with Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index, nearly 70% of 42 countries fall into a high-risk zone of both high perceived corruption and low land data transparency. This gap isn’t just technical – it’s a critical governance failure that enables grand corruption and blocks efforts to hold power to account.

Action tip: Use SOLI data to push governments toward full transparency. Start by asking: “Where are our land records? Why aren’t they public?”

### Step 3: Push for full – not partial transparency

Publishing some land data isn’t enough. Corrupt actors thrive on **partial transparency**, where superficial reforms give the appearance of openness while the most important data stays hidden. To truly combat this, we need the interoperability of databases – for these systems to ‘talk to each other’ – so we can uncover and prevent corrupt schemes and practices.

To really fight corruption, we need open disclosure on:

- Ownership data (including beneficial ownership)
- Land transactions and concessions
- Zoning, valuation, and dispute records
- Customary land rights, including rights for Indigenous peoples and local communities, pastoral communities, and women
- Data on business lobbying and party financing
- Asset declarations (including information on land ownership)

**Advocacy goal:** Call for comprehensive, machine-readable, interoperable and simplified land data, not just bulky and highly technical reports on obscure government websites.

### Step 4: Collaborate with platforms that drive change

The **Land Portal Foundation** is leading the charge in promoting open and inclusive land data ecosystems. Through tools like the SOLI Index and partnerships with civil society and government actors, they are building the transparency infrastructure we need.

They also provide:

- Open-access datasets
- Research and country profiles
- Tools for monitoring and advocacy

**Get involved:** Partner with Land Portal to audit your country’s transparency levels, build public dashboards, or join coalitions demanding better land governance.



*A bustling urban market street contrasts with modern high-rises, illustrating the divide in city development.  
Illustration: Yamrote Alemu*

## Step 5: Make land data work for people

Even when land data exists, it's often inaccessible to those who need it most – rural communities, Indigenous peoples, women, people with disabilities, whistleblowers and land rights defenders. Barriers such as limited internet access, illiteracy, and lack of accessible formats further exclude these groups. Transparency must be **inclusive**.

### Best practices:

- Translate data into local languages
- Use offline tools and radio to reach disconnected areas
- Work with community paralegals and local media to interpret records
- Build mobile-friendly platforms for land information

**Remember:** Transparency is only powerful if people can actually use it.

## Step 6: Connect the dots – Transparency is an anti-corruption strategy

TI's working paper makes it clear: Transparency is a strategic entry point for fighting grand corruption in the land sector.

But transparency alone isn't enough. It must be paired with:

- Strong laws
- Independent oversight institutions
- A free press
- Active civil society

To tackle land corruption, governments need to close legal loopholes, align laws, and make sure land agencies are clear on their roles and properly resourced. Just as importantly, they must include Indigenous Peoples, women, and other marginalised groups in decision-making – and back it all up with real enforcement, strong sanctions, and international cooperation.

Fighting grand corruption in land governance isn't about waiting for the perfect reform – it's about using the tools we have now. Transparency is a strong weapon, and with allies like the Land Portal Foundation and tools like the **SOLI Index**, we're better equipped than ever.





*For illustration purpose only*

## **Why are corrupt and powerful people so hard to reel in?**

**By Dr Pola Singh**

*June 24, 2025*

It is no secret that many are puzzled about, even disillusioned with, the application of justice in the country.

Much is said about transparency, the rule of law and zero tolerance for corruption. But people continue to witness what they believe are double standards – one set of rules for the powerful and well-connected, and another for the rest.

When it comes to personalities, the process of investigation seems unusually delicate, even deferential.

These individuals, often bearing titles, appear to enjoy a legal buffer against the full force of the law.

Take any scandal in recent years involving millions or even billions in losses, and you'll notice a recurring pattern.

There's a flurry of headlines, maybe a dramatic raid or two, a press conference promising stern action – and then, silence. The headlines fade. The cases stall.

In too many instances, there are no convictions. Some are charged, yes – but later, they quietly walk away.

The people can hardly recall a single high-profile figure, besides a former prime minister, going to jail despite the staggering sums involved.

And yet, if an ordinary citizen is caught embezzling even a fraction of these amounts, the system moves swiftly – remand orders, handcuffs, orange lock-up attire and immediate media exposure. Justice is swift and very public.

Contrast this with the treatment of those from the upper echelons.

Even the scheduling of interviews with investigating officers seems to be a matter of polite negotiation rather than lawful compulsion. It appears that the higher the status, the gentler the process.



*For illustration purpose only  
(Source: Canva)*

Consider, too, a fraud reportedly involving billions in losses and thousands of victims, including foreign nationals.

While its mastermind has finally been extradited to another country to face justice, back home in Malaysia the story reads differently. Key proxies, including those with titles, were detained but none have been charged yet.

So the question arises: Why are the big fish so hard to reel in?

Is it because they are well connected? Because they know how to navigate the system?

Or are the enforcement agencies unable to act without fear or favour?

Whatever the reason, the consequences are serious. When justice appears selective, public trust erodes. Citizens begin to believe that laws apply only to the powerless. And that belief is dangerous – not just for democracy, but also for the nation's soul.

To the enforcement agencies, the people are watching.

And we are asking: Why the delay? Why the special treatment? Why the silence after the headlines?

If someone can be investigated for a billion-ringgit scandal and walk around freely in designer suits, while a petty thief is taken to court, can we still say we are all equal before the law?

The time has come to put an end to double standards. Investigations involving massive corruption, money laundering and white-collar crime should be handled with the same urgency and intensity as those involving the common person. The greater the crime, the greater the responsibility to act decisively.

Justice must not treat the elite with kid gloves. It must fulfil its promise to the people.



# TI-MALAYSIA IN THE NEWS

March, April, May, June



TI-M: Restricting access to company owner data undermines reform



Prinsip integriti bukan hanya teori, Sarawak sasar pentadbiran bebas rasuah

By Vanessa Enjap #tm, Berita Sarawak April 16, 2025 3:16 PM



Podcasts / Current Affairs / Beyond The Ballot Box  
**Malaysia's Continuous Battle With Corruption**

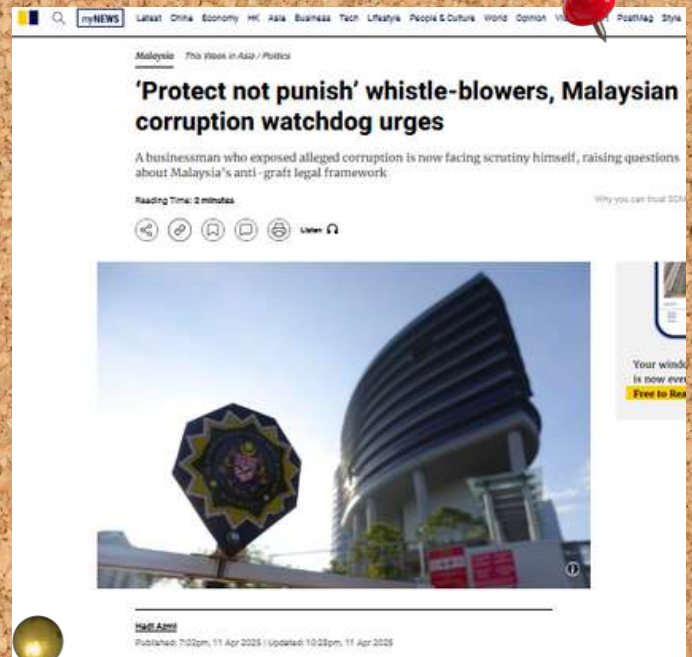


34 mins · 15:00, 15 May 2025

Guest: Raymon Ram, President, Transparency International Malaysia

Raymon Ram has been appointed the new president of Transparency International-Malaysia. He will be serving in this capacity from 2025 - 2027. He succeeds Dr Muhammad Mohan, who stepped down after completing the six-year term limit.

In this episode, we chat with Raymon about battling the culture of corruption in Malaysia and what he hopes to achieve as the new President of Transparency International - Malaysia.



TI-M picks Raymon Ram as president

2 MONTHS AGO

FMT Reporters

The fraud examiner and entrepreneur succeeds Muhammad Mohan, who has completed his six-year term.



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Guest: Raymon Ram, President, Transparency International Malaysia

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has completed 10 key sub-strategies under the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2024-2028. Still, concerns persist over the slow pace of wider institutional reforms. Raymon Ram, President of Transparency International Malaysia, shares his insights on the effectiveness of these efforts and the road ahead.