



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
MALAYSIA

NEWSLETTER



A NATION FREE OF CORRUPTION, A SOCIETY BUILT ON INTEGRITY

Volume 59 (October-December 2025). KDN Permit No: 11959/03/2019 (025399)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2026 must be the year we as a country move decisively from intent to action. The question is no longer whether reforms are needed, but whether those entrusted with power are prepared to be held to account and to deliver.

Over the past year, the Prime Minister and the Government have reiterated reform commitments under the Malaysia Madani framework and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Many of these priorities reflect reforms long proposed and consistently advocated by Transparency International Malaysia, including stronger whistleblower protection, greater transparency in public procurement, political financing reform, the establishment of a Federal Ombudsman, freedom of information, and the separation of prosecutorial powers from the executive. If implemented with independence and resolve, these reforms should meaningfully strengthen governance and restore public trust.

In his New Year address, the Prime Minister framed 2026 as a 'test of execution rather than intent'. This is an important acknowledgement. Credibility will not be measured by announcements, but by implementation, enforcement, and tangible improvements in governance and public service delivery. Intent alone, however, is not reform. The integrity of reform lies in execution, institutional independence, and accountability. Transparency International Malaysia continues to observe gaps between promise and practice, and it is within this gap that public trust is either rebuilt or further eroded.

As we move into 2026, TI-Malaysia's strategic focus is clear. We will continue to hold those in power to account. Accountability is the cornerstone of any credible anti-corruption effort. Public office is a position of trust, not entitlement, and no individual or institution is beyond scrutiny.

Equally important is ensuring that reforms proposed and advocated by TI-Malaysia are carried out fully by the Government, without delay or dilution. Malaysia does not lack reform ideas; what remains lacking is consistent follow-through. TI-Malaysia will therefore closely monitor the implementation of key reforms, particularly those relating to whistleblower protection, political financing, procurement governance, beneficial ownership transparency, and institutional checks and balances. Reform must be judged by outcomes, not promises. At the same time, we will deepen engagement with the corporate sector and young Malaysians. Businesses play a critical role in preventing corruption and shaping ethical standards. The youth are not merely future leaders but present stakeholders - as observed in the changes and actions of the youth the world witnessed in 2025. Integrity must be embedded in leadership, organisational culture, and civic values.

The fight against corruption cannot be postponed or diluted. It requires political will, institutional courage, responsible corporate leadership, and an engaged citizenry. Transparency International Malaysia remains steadfast in its role as an independent civil society organisation committed to accountability, reform delivery, and integrity.

As we step into this new year, I thank our members, partners, volunteers, and supporters for your continued trust. Let us move forward with clarity and resolve to ensure that accountability is upheld, reform is delivered, and integrity is the norm.

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





EDITORIAL

POLITICAL WILL: WHAT THE NATION NEEDS NOW!

Dr Sahul Hamid, Editor, TI-M Newsletter

This issue of the TI-M Newsletter comes at a time when Malaysians are juggling many questions. Some serious, some frustrating, and some frankly tiring. From football controversies to court decisions and reform promises, public life lately feels like one long discussion that never quite reaches a conclusion.

Let's begin with football, because once again it has become more than just a game. The recent saga over citizenship and naturalisation of players has raised uncomfortable questions: Who approved it? Was the process proper? And why does it only become an issue after we start losing or get exposed? Football here is not really about tactics or talent, it is about rules, transparency, and whether shortcuts are quietly accepted until they become embarrassing.



Then there is the ATM (Angkatan Tentera Malaysia) scandal, which many Malaysians are following with concern. The question not about the professionalism or sacrifice of soldiers on the ground, but about how procurement and oversight failures were allowed to go unnoticed for years. When problems involving defence contracts, costs, or equipment only surface after long periods, the obvious question is not just what went wrong, but how it was overlooked for so long. When institutions cannot explain where checks failed and who was accountable, speculation takes over, and speculation is a poor substitute for trust.

The acquittal of Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, the Deputy Prime Minister, has added another layer to public unease. Some see it as proof that courts must decide based on evidence, not public opinion. Others feel it confirms that powerful figures somehow always land on their feet. Both views exist because many Malaysians are still trying to figure out whether the system is consistent, or selectively efficient.

In this climate, the Prime Minister's renewed talk about setting up an ombudsman and separating the roles of Attorney General and Public Prosecutor is timely. As the Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has suggested, combining advisory and prosecutorial powers in one office creates obvious tension. The real question, however, is simple – will this remain a good idea in speeches, or will it finally become policy?

When we put all these issues together: football citizenship shortcuts, corruption cases, big-name acquittals, and reform promise, now, the problem looks less like individual failure and more like a system that relies too much on discretion and too little on clear boundaries. Laws exist. Procedures exist. What is missing is consistency.

TI-M does not pretend to have easy answers. But we believe Malaysians deserve clearer explanations, firmer institutions, and fewer surprises. A country cannot keep asking its citizens to "trust the system" while refusing to fix the system. And for all the reforms we must undertake, we need THE WILL. THE POLITICAL WILL.

DR SAHUL HAMID
Executive Committee Member
Transparency International Malaysia

Courtesy Visit and Meeting with Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)

National Integrity Culture Strategy Study



On 6 October 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) was invited by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) to participate in a strategic discussion session for their National Integrity Culture Strategy Study. TI-M was represented by Mr. Raymon Ram (President), Ms. Nurirdzuana Ismail (Secretary General), Justin Jarret (Manager), and Ms. Nur Afrina (Executive, Communications & Project). MIGHT's team included Dr Abdul Rahman Hamdan (Senior Principal Analyst II), Ms Sri Widias Tuti (Senior Principal Analyst), Ms Safiyyah (Research Analyst), and Ms Nur Qistina (Project Researcher).

During the meeting, TI-M shared an in-depth analysis of Malaysia's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), highlighted key institutional reform recommendations, and exchanged insights to enhance MIGHT's research approach particularly from the perspective of a civil society organisation committed to integrity. The session also explored potential collaboration in joint research, stakeholder engagement, and policy advocacy to support a more inclusive and impactful national integrity framework. TI-M's involvement reflects its continued commitment to advancing transparency, accountability, and ethical governance in Malaysia.



PAKAR's Anti-Corruption Convention 2025

Strengthening Integrity and Combating Corruption: Reality or Rhetoric.



On 9 October 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) was invited to participate in PAKAR's Anti-Corruption Convention (Konvensyen Anti Rasuah 2025 PAKAR Malaysia), themed "Strengthening Integrity and Combating Corruption: Reality or Rhetoric." TI-M was represented by Ms. Normalis (Individual Member), Nur Afrina (Executive, Communications & Projects), Aathira Nambiar (Accounts and Project Executive), and Hamizah Ilham (Project Executive), who joined other stakeholders in exploring pressing issues of governance and integrity.

The convention provided a platform for deep discussions on anti-corruption strategies, highlighting best practices and legal frameworks for effective corporate governance. It encouraged knowledge-sharing among government, business, and civil society, while also formulating actionable recommendations to strengthen enforcement, regulate political financing, uphold media ethics, enhance education, and reinforce integrity within the public sector.

Corporate Integrity Workshop

Organized by Institut Integriti Malaysia (IIM), Lembaga Kemajuan Wilayah Kedah (KEDA) and Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA)



On 16 October 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), represented by Ms. Fareedah Kamarulzaman (Executive Committee Member), was invited by Institut Integriti Malaysia (IIM) to participate in the Seminar Integriti Korporat (SIK) in Kedah. The event was organized in collaboration with Lembaga Kemajuan Wilayah Kedah (KEDA) and Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA), and was hosted at MADA's headquarters in Alor Setar, Kedah.

The seminar brought together 70 stakeholders from MADA. It aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the importance of integrity and good governance in business operations, in line with the requirements of Section 17A of the MACC Act 2009 on corporate liability. The program also emphasized best practices for preventing and combating corruption at the corporate level, reinforcing the need for ethical conduct and accountability across organizations.



Advancing Beneficial Ownership Compliance in Corporate Malaysia

in Penang, Kuching and Johor Bahru



Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), in collaboration with the Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (MAICSA) and the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM), organized a series of Beneficial Ownership (BO) workshops across Malaysia. The first session was held in Penang on 6 November 2025 at the Royale Chulan Hotel, officiated by TI-M EXCO member Mr. Nazri Shaidon, and featured speakers Ms. Samantha Tai Yit Chan (Council Member, MAICSA) and Ms. Wan Farahnaz Mohd Noor (Executive, Enforcement Section, SSM). The second session took place in Kuching on 13 November 2025 at the Waterfront Hotel, officiated by EXCO member Mr. Balbeer Singh, with speakers Ms. Samantha Tai Yit Chan (MAICSA) and Ms. Khairah Izzati Abdul Khalid (SSM Sarawak). The final session was held in Johor Bahru on 1 December 2025 at the Amari Hotel, officiated by EXCO member Mr. Balbeer Singh, and featured presentations by Ms. Samantha Tai Yit Chan (MAICSA) and Ms. Norehan Binti Azili (SSM Johor Bahru). The programme was formally closed by TI-M Secretary General Ms. Nurirdzuana Ismail. Across all sessions, participants explored compliance strategies, regulatory updates, and international best practices for identifying and verifying beneficial owners, while aligning with the enforcement of the Companies (Amendment) Act 2024 that strengthens BO regulations.





Courtesy Visit to Bangladesh Embassy and Corruption Survey Workshop at TI-Bangladesh

knowledge sharing

On 18 October, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), represented by Mr. Raymon Ram (President) and Mr. Justin Jarret (Manager) paid a courtesy visit to the Bangladesh Embassy to share TI-M's initiatives and discuss their participation in the upcoming Corruption Survey Workshop organized by TI-Bangladesh. Both sides exchanged valuable ideas on potential future collaboration. From 21 to 23 October, Mr. Raymon and Mr. Justin represented TI-M at TI-Bangladesh's Corruption Survey Workshop: Data Skills for Anti-Corruption Research & Advocacy, held at the TIB Dhaka office. The workshop, jointly organized by the TI Secretariat and TI-Bangladesh (TI-BD) with support from the European Union, brought together representatives from six TI chapters—Fiji, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Malaysia. Over three days, participants explored data-driven advocacy and sector-specific corruption analysis, covering topics such as corruption survey methodologies, fieldwork challenges, bribery trends, data disaggregation, visualization with Power BI, and techniques for telling impactful stories with data.



Integrity First: Strengthening Ethics in Government Agencies

Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)



On 12 November, Ms Fareedah led a one-hour training session for the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) titled "Integrity First: Strengthening Ethics in Government Agencies." The session addressed crucial topics including the definition and significance of integrity, Malaysia's performance in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), TI-M's policy recommendations, notable corruption cases involving civil servants based on Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) data, high-profile breaches of integrity, the repercussions of unethical conduct, and strategies to cultivate a culture of integrity through strong leadership in the public sector.



Courtesy Visit to Jabatan Audit Negara



On 24 November 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), led by President Mr. Raymon Ram and accompanied by TI-M executive committee and secretariats, paid a courtesy visit to the National Audit Department and met with Chief Auditor YBhg. Dato' Seri Wan Suraya Wan Mohd Radzi, Deputy Head Mrs. Norliza binti Md. Nuruddin @ Nordin, and senior officers. The meeting provided a meaningful platform to exchange views on strengthening integrity, accountability, and transparency in public administration, while reinforcing shared commitments to advancing good governance.

Key topics discussed included:

- ❖ Institutionalising Integrity Pacts & Independent Expert Monitors (IEMs) to ensure oversight in high-value projects
- ❖ Beneficial Ownership (BO) Transparency as a tool to enhance audit effectiveness and accountability
- ❖ Leveraging Technology for Transparency, particularly in strengthening monitoring and reporting systems
- ❖ Other TI-M initiatives undertaken over the past years to promote integrity and anti-corruption reforms

The visit highlighted the importance of collaboration between TI-M and the National Audit Department in strengthening governance and public trust.

2025 TI Indo-Pacific STRONGG

Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Transparency International Malaysia

2025 Chapter Highlights & Lessons Learned



◆ Strengthening Local Demand for Accountability

Youth Against Corruption (YAC) Workshops

- Held in Tawau, Sandakan, and upcoming in Kota Kinabalu.
- Delivered with UNODC, MACC, and local NGOs under the UNCAC framework.
- Featured integrity games, MACC briefings, and peer-led exercises.
- Impact: 100+ youth on ethical leadership and corruption reporting.
- Next: Youth-led outreach campaigns, toolkit expansion, and integration into schools.

◆ Amplifying the Anti-Corruption Voice

Public Advocacy & Monitoring

- Monitored by Transparency failures through public statements and media.
- Auditor-General's Report findings.
- Rushed Procurement Bill tabling.
- Integrity risks in national sports and procurement sectors.
- Sustained pressure on institutional reforms and transparency commitments.

Knowledge Products & Practical Tools

- Released research and toolkits on BO transparency, procurement reform, carbon governance, and compliance frameworks.
- Shared insights with regulators, businesses, and civil society through workshops, reports, and public campaigns.

◆ Advancing Transparent Governance Frameworks

Beneficial Ownership (BO) Transparency

- BO workshops in Penang, Sarawak, and Johor with BSM and MACC, equipping corporate stakeholders on BO disclosure requirements.
- Advocacy Focus: TI-M is actively pushing for a publicly accessible BO portal, in line with international best practices to combat illicit financial flows.

Policy Reform & Legislative Engagement

- Supported the Whistleblower Protection Act (Amendment) 2025 passed in Parliament.
- Constituted advocacy for a Political Financing Act and a People's Freedom of Information Act.
- Engaged with MACC and Prime Minister's Department to advance implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.
- Integrity Pacts in Public Procurement
- Next: Develop legal mandates, deploy digital monitoring tools, and implement trained independent monitors.

Integrity & GEI in Carbon Markets

- Published a case study report assessing two BCI-linked carbon projects (Nature- and Tech-based Solutions).
- Identified transparency and inclusion gaps in project oversight.
- Next: Advocate safeguards and accountability frameworks in climate-related finance.

◆ Key Lessons from 2025

- BO Transparency Must Be Public
- Closed access undermines anti-corruption gains — a public BO portal is essential for public scrutiny and international credibility.
- Legal Reforms Require Oversight Structures
- Legislation alone is insufficient; integrity tools (e.g. independent monitors, digital systems) must be embedded in implementation.
- Youth Engagement Works Best When Localised
- Digital Tools Express Reach & Accomplishment
- Technology enhances integrity compliance — from BO tracking to anti-trustiness assessments — and must be scaled across sectors.

◆ Looking Ahead – 2026 Priorities

- Expand Youth Against Corruption to Peninsular Malaysia
- Advocate for a public BO register and FOI & political financing laws
- Launch Section 17A Self-Assessment Tool and drive multi-sector adoption
- Expand Integrity Pact implementation with legal and digital backing
- Convene forums on climate finance governance and ethical business practices

Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), represented by its President Mr. Raymon Ram, participated in the 2025 TI Indo-Pacific STRONGG Meeting held from 18–20 November in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where 17 TI Chapters from across Asia and the Pacific joined colleagues from the TI Secretariat and partners from Thailand and the Philippines. The three-day gathering provided a dynamic platform to exchange stories, share progress, and reflect on the challenges faced by chapters in 2025, particularly funding cuts, while exploring diverse strategies to overcome them. Discussions were enriched by insights into the rapidly changing regional context, including the rise of youth and social movements, and culminated in updated advocacy plans for 2026 with a strong focus on political integrity and tackling dirty money.

Advancing Access to Information in the Defence & Security Sector

Roundtable Discussion



On 20 November, Transparency International Defence and Security (TI-DS) convened a roundtable discussion at the Royale Chulan Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, bringing together 20 participants to examine the applicability of the Tshwane Principles within Malaysia's Ministry of Defence. The session encouraged dialogue among stakeholders from government, civil society, and academia, and was led by subject matter expert Mr. Choo Yi Kang. He provided valuable insights into improving transparency and access to information in the defence and security sector. The discussion also explored how embracing the Tshwane Principles could enhance Malaysia's standing in the Government Defence Index (GDI).



Raise for Change – TI Fundraising Bootcamp 2025

Organized by TI Berlin



25 to 27 November 2025, Mr Justin Jarret (Manager, TI-Malaysia) participated in the TI Fundraising Bootcamp in Berlin, a three-day program designed to strengthen fundraising capacity across the Transparency International movement. The bootcamp provided participants with practical tools to build fundraising skills, share best practices with peers, and foster a collaborative fundraising community. Sessions explored sustainable strategies that connect impact with organisational priorities, budgeting in project design, and the idea that everyone plays a role in fundraising.

With representatives from 20 chapters across 20 countries, the bootcamp was filled with openness, humour, and generosity in sharing experiences. "Raise for Change" marks the beginning of a stronger, more connected Development & Partnerships community, and TI-M is eager to carry this momentum forward by applying the knowledge gained to its work in Malaysia. TI-M extends its gratitude to TI-Berlin for the valuable opportunity.



Bank Islam Integrity Day

Booth opening & Integrity Snake and Ladder Game



As part of our continuous advocacy to strengthen integrity in Malaysia, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) actively collaborates with our corporate members to design engaging booths and impactful awareness activities that bring the anti-corruption agenda closer to the public. On 17 November, TI-M was proud to participate in Bank Islam's Integrity Day, where we connected directly with employees through interactive tools such as our Integrity Snake & Ladder game. By transforming complex conversations about ethics and accountability into accessible and enjoyable experiences, we sparked meaningful discussions on workplace ethics, transparency, and accountability.

The enthusiasm and active participation of Bank Islam staff made the session vibrant and impactful, reflecting a genuine commitment to embedding integrity into daily practices. We commend Bank Islam for their proactive leadership in championing good governance, transparency, and integrity, and for creating inclusive spaces that encourage learning, awareness, and positive change. Their dedication sets a strong example for other institutions, reinforcing the collective effort needed to build a culture of trust and integrity across Malaysia.



Bank Rakyat Fraud and Integrity Day (FIND 2025) event

Forum



On 2 December, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) was invited by Bank Rakyat, our valued Corporate Member, to participate in the Forum on "Together We Stand for Integrity", moderated by Mr. Muhamad Nazri, TI-M EXCO Member. The forum emphasized the crucial role of institutions and leadership in embedding ethical practices and fostering an integrity-based culture, while also addressing real challenges faced by enforcement and governance bodies such as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (SPRM), the Malaysian Institute of Integrity (IIM), and the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM). The discussions underscored the importance of cross-institutional collaboration in building a nation free from corruption and misconduct, with Bank Rakyat's initiative providing an invaluable platform to champion integrity, transparency, and accountability at every level.

Integrity Day Event collaboration 2025

KTM Berhad and Air Asia Berhad



On 2 December, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) was honoured to participate in Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTM Berhad)'s Integrity and Anti-Corruption Day (HI-ARK) 2025 and the launch of the Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) at Hotel AnCasa Kuala Lumpur. At our booth, we showcased TI-M's work with a special focus on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), engaging KTM Berhad employees through knowledge-sharing and distributing publications to strengthen awareness of integrity and anti-corruption initiatives. We warmly congratulate KTM Berhad on the launch of the ABMS and look forward to its effective implementation in driving accountability and transparency across the organization.



On 9 December, we were delighted to join AirAsia's International Anti-Corruption Day celebration, which also marked their 24th anniversary. Through interactive quizzes at our booth, we educated participants on TI-M's role, the CPI, and the importance of integrity and good governance. Being part of both events in the transportation sector was truly meaningful, and we look forward to continuing these collaborations to champion integrity and build a corruption-free future together.

International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD)

by United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC)



On 9 December 2025, in conjunction with International Anti-Corruption Day, Mr. Raymon Ram, President of Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), was invited by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to speak at a session on "Transparency and Oversight in Public Procurement." The session explored global good practices, key challenges, and Transparency International's tools and indices for both public and defence procurement.

Mr. Raymon's presentation stressed the importance of transparency, accountability, and effective oversight in procurement processes. He highlighted Integrity Pacts and the role of independent expert monitors, showcased the Government Defence Integrity Index (GDI), and introduced the Tshwane Principles to balance national security with public access to information. The session emphasized that collaborative approaches and strong monitoring mechanisms are vital to driving ethical procurement practices and reinforcing public trust in governance.



Anti-Corruption Workshop – Leading Business Integrity

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah



On 11 December 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Sabah, concluded its Anti-Corruption Workshop series with the final session on Leading Business Integrity at Promenade Hotel, Kota Kinabalu. The closing session featured a keynote address by YBhg. Datuk TPj Mohd Fuad Bee Bin Basrah, Director of MACC Sabah, an opening address by Erik van der Veen, Head of UNODC Programme Office Malaysia, and a welcoming speech by Ms. Nurirdzuana Ismail, Secretary General of TI-Malaysia. Key presentations included strengthening corporate integrity through reporting mechanisms by KPKPs Tuan Jasni Bin Gayung of MACC, and building a whistleblowing framework based on trust, impartiality, and protection by Ms. Nurirdzuana Ismail. The workshop gathered 45 participants from industries such as plantation, real estate, investment, oil and gas, healthcare, and finance.

With the conclusion of this series, TI-M reaffirmed its commitment to embedding integrity at the heart of business operations. By fostering collaboration between public and private sectors, the initiative aims to build resilient systems that deter corruption, safeguard whistleblowers, and enhance transparency. These efforts not only strengthen institutional trust but also contribute to Malaysia's sustainable growth and reinforce its global reputation as a nation dedicated to integrity.





Youth Against Corruption: A Workshop on Integrity and Accountability

Youth take a stand against corruption at University Malaysia Sabah (UMS)



On 13 December 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) concluded the final leg of its Youth Against Corruption: A Workshop on Integrity and Accountability series in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Organized in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Sabah, the Society for Equality, Respect and Trust for All Sabah (SERATA), and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), the workshop brought together 69 students for a dynamic session combining educational talks and interactive games to deepen their understanding of corruption and inspire ethical leadership. The event was officiated by Professor Dr. Raman Noordin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (HEPA) of UMS, with a welcoming address by Puan Nurirdzuana Ismail, Secretary General of TI-M.

Programme highlights included a session on whistleblower and witness protection by PsK Tuan Dzulkarnain Rousan bin Hasbi of MACC Sabah, the Integrity Snake & Ladder activity facilitated by TI-M Secretariat, and Water for the World, a game-based integrity exercise led by Mr. Robert Hii of SERATA. As TI-M wrapped up its youth workshops for 2025, the organization reaffirmed its commitment to engaging young Malaysians, championing integrity, and empowering future leaders to become agents of change who lead with accountability and purpose.





Virtual Forum and Talk

By The Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (MAICSA) & Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI)

On 9 December 2025, MAICSA hosted its Regulatory Forum titled Evolving Regulatory Landscape: Strengthening Corporate Resilience and Governance Integrity, with Ms. Fareedah representing Transparency International Malaysia. The flagship virtual event gathered over 200 participants, including company secretaries, directors, regulators, and corporate professionals, to discuss the latest developments in company law and governance. As part of Session 4, When Trust Breaks – Lessons from Corporate Fraud and Governance Failures, panelists examined real-life fraud cases, highlighted overlooked red flags, and shared strategies to rebuild accountability, strengthen ethical resilience, and prevent future breaches through transparent governance and robust auditing.



On 18 December, Phye Keat delivered a half-day session on Conflict of Interest for the Board of Directors of Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI). The talk focused on identifying, managing, and mitigating conflicts of interest within corporate governance, equipping board members with practical insights to strengthen transparency, integrity, and trust in organizational decision-making.

Program Integriti & Anti-Ketirisan: Membangun Budaya Amanah with Air Selangor

Internal Training

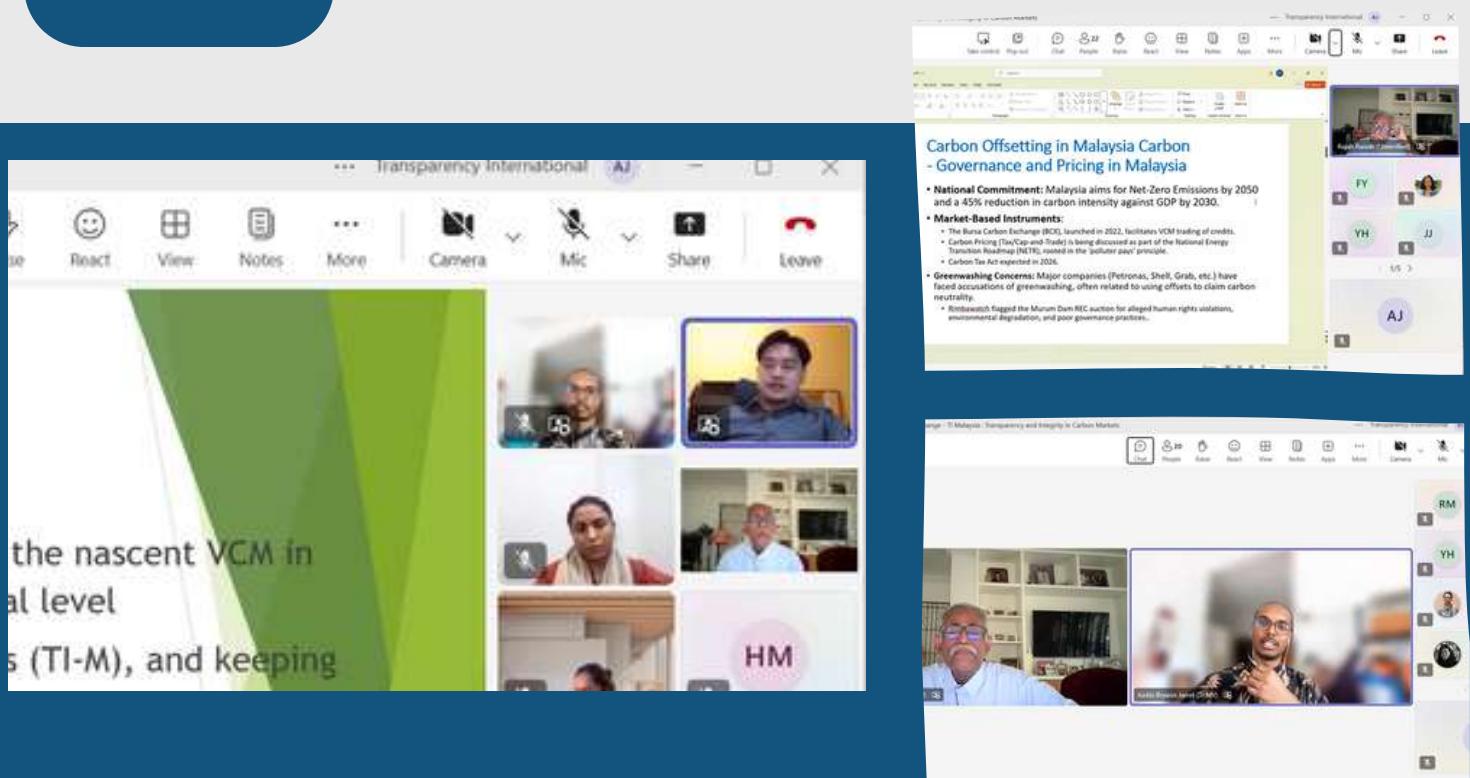


On 15 December 2025, Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), in collaboration with corporate member Pengurusan Air Selangor, held a full-day training program titled “Program Integriti & Anti-Ketirisan: Membangun Budaya Amanah”, led by Puan Nurirdzuana Ismail, Secretary General of TI-Malaysia. The session empowered 34 management employees to enhance their understanding of bribery, corruption, and workplace misconduct, recognize their responsibilities in preventing and reporting integrity breaches, apply Anti-Bribery & Anti-Corruption (ABAC) principles through case studies, strengthen ethical conduct, and appreciate the legal and societal consequences of corruption. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions and interactive activities that reinforced the importance of integrity in daily work.



Sharing Session on Outcomes and Lessons Learned from TI-M Projects (2024 & 2025)

Climate Governance Integrity Project (CGIP)



On 18 December 2025, Transparency International (Berlin) hosted a Knowledge Sharing Session with Transparency International Malaysia under the theme “Outcomes and Lessons Learned from TI-M Projects (2024 & 2025).” The 70-minute session brought together participants from TI chapters worldwide—including Pakistan, Canada, and others involved in the Climate and Integrity Project. The program featured two presentations, each lasting 30 minutes, followed by a 10-minute Q&A segment. Mr. Ho Yi Jian (Lead Researcher) presented TI-M’s 2024 project, Enhancing Transparency and Mitigating Corruption Risks in Carbon Markets for Climate Action, covering an introduction to voluntary carbon markets and credits, a case study, general recommendations, and strategies for policy proposals.

The second presentation was delivered by Prof. Rajah Rasiah (Lead Researcher), who shared insights from TI-M’s 2025 project, Rating the Raters: Accountability and Transparency of Standards. His session explored carbon offsetting in Malaysia, challenges in equitable allocation of carbon emissions across supply chains, comparisons of carbon credit rating agencies and methodologies, and issues within Malaysia’s carbon market framework. Together, the presentations highlighted TI-M’s ongoing efforts to strengthen transparency, accountability, and integrity in climate-related governance, while fostering global dialogue and collaboration among TI chapters.



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FIFA-FAM 'Doctored Documentation' Saga: When Integrity Failed Malaysian Football

By Dr Pola Singh

TI-M Individual Member

29 September 2025

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

When Fifa revealed on Sept 26 that it had imposed sanctions on the FA of Malaysia (FAM) and seven footballers, the Malaysian football fraternity was left stunned.

This was not another failed qualifying campaign or a bad day on the pitch. It was something far more damaging: FAM and the seven national players were sanctioned for forgery and falsification of documents.

Let us be clear – this is not merely a footballing issue. It is a matter of integrity, accountability, and the rule of law. Forgery and falsification are criminal offences. They involve deception for gain, and those implicated must answer not only to Fifa but also to the Malaysian public and the country's own laws.

What message does this send to the world? In a nation where thousands of long-term residents struggle for years, even decades, to secure citizenship, the perception that foreign-born players were fast-tracked for footballing convenience has struck a raw nerve. It smacks of a shortcut mentality – instant gratification over hard work, patience, and due diligence. FAM may have sought quick results on the global stage, but at what cost? The integrity and image of Malaysia itself.

Yes, we all want Malaysia to climb the football rankings. But should we do so at the expense of honesty and credibility? To field players through doctored papers is to drag the nation's reputation into the mud. Shame on whoever chose this path. If we want to win, let us do it the honourable way – through nurturing home-grown talent and respecting the rules of the game.

FAM must stop pointing fingers at Fifa or elsewhere. Fifa is not a political organisation; it has no agenda against Malaysia. Its very mission is to promote and grow football globally, especially in developing nations. Why would it sabotage us? The reality is simple: Fifa's decision is based on facts, procedures, and evidence. For Malaysia to insinuate otherwise is to insult both Fifa and the intelligence of the Malaysian public.



twentytwo13 news website

FIFA-FAM 'Doctored Documentation' Saga: When Integrity Failed Malaysian Football

The law of unintended consequences is also at play. With more and more foreign-born players recruited by FAM and its affiliates, local players are being crowded out. If this trend continues, Malaysia may end up fielding a national team that ordinary Malaysians cannot even identify with – a team that looks foreign, struggles with our national language, and cannot sing the Negaraku with the same passion. What image would that convey to the world?

This crisis, however, presents a chance for course correction. The door is now open for local talent to step up. But FAM must lead the way, by shifting focus towards grassroots development and ensuring affiliates recruit responsibly. No more shortcuts, no more doctored documents. Foreign players who are brought in must meet the highest standards of eligibility, with no compromises.

This scandal has shaken Malaysian football to its core. It is perhaps the darkest hour since the match-fixing scandal of the 1990s. But unlike then, this time it is not rogue individuals – it is the very institution entrusted with safeguarding the game. If reforms are not made, if integrity is not restored, Malaysia risks being remembered not for its passion for football, but for its willingness to cheat for glory.

The choice is before us: Continue down this path of disgrace, or rebuild with honesty, patience, and faith in our own talent. For the sake of the sport, for the sake of the country, let us choose the latter.



Credit: Shutterstock/ [Peopleimages](#)

Addressing Sexual Corruption in Rwanda's Higher Education Institutions

By Annie Healion

Gender and Inclusion coordinator, All 4 Inclusive Service Delivery Africa (ISDA)

25 November 2025

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

As the world observes 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, [sexual corruption in higher education institutions in Rwanda](#) requires particular attention and strong actions to combat.

Rwanda has made remarkable progress in education access and gender equality. However, research by [Transparency International Rwanda](#) and [the 2025 Barriers to Basics Report](#) - Transparency International's report exploring how corruption and discrimination limit access to education and healthcare services - reveal a disturbing reality. That is, in universities across the country, students face an impossible choice -comply with lecturers' sexual demands or watch their academic futures crumble.

Sexual Corruption is Gender-Based Violence

Sexual corruption is the abuse of entrusted power to demand or obtain sex or acts of a sexual nature. No country is immune to this insidious form of abuse. It can occur across multiple sectors: schools, police stations, immigration centers, courthouses, healthcare facilities and workplaces - [anywhere power imbalances exist](#).

Sexual corruption is not merely an abuse of power - it is a form of gender-based violence (GBV) that exploits the same structural inequalities that enable domestic abuse, sexual assault and harassment, and can cause physical harm and lasting psychological trauma. It [disproportionately](#) targets women and girls, who exist within broader societal structures that already diminish women's authority and autonomy.

The coercion tactics of sexual corruption mirror those in other recognised forms of GBV, including threats to livelihoods, isolation and economic control. Sexual corruption creates impossible binds where victims must choose between their bodily autonomy or their education, employment and future. The psychological harm of sexual corruption - including dropping out of school or work, mental health problems, decreased credibility in communities and forgoing public services to avoid further abuse - is equally characteristic of GBV.

When Grades Become Currency

In higher education, sexual corruption thrives in an environment where individuals control both grading and grade entry into university systems. This concentration of power creates opportunities for abuse that disproportionately harm women, [who comprise only 34% of students and 25% of academic staff at institutions like the University of Kigali](#).



Credit: Shutterstock/ Peopleimages

"Jovia," a first-year university student from Rwanda, described how her lecturer demanded her phone number and began making romantic advances. When she blocked him, he retaliated by publicly shaming her, ejecting her from class and denying her access to exams. "Male students, fearing failure, could pay him money to pass the course," Jovia explained. "For female students, however, if the lecturer sought sexual favors, there was no alternative."

The Compounding Costs

Transparency International Rwanda's research shows higher learning institutions rank second highest for gender-based corruption at 42.6%, trailing only the private sector. The impacts extend far beyond academic delays – students report depression, anxiety and lasting trauma that affect every aspect of their lives.

These aren't isolated incidents, but rather part of a broader issue where sexual corruption – and the insidious entangling of corruption and gender-based violence – deprive people of their rights, livelihoods, and, sometimes even, their lives.

Criminalisation Needs Enforcement

Rwanda's 2018 Law on Fighting Against Corruption explicitly criminalises sexual corruption with prison terms of 5-10 years – yet enforcement remains rare. Analysis of conviction lists shows monetary bribes and embezzlement frequently cited, but soliciting sexual favors almost never appears. Only when "Jovia" confided in her father, who involved Transparency International Rwanda and the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, did justice prevail – resulting in a rare five-year conviction for her lecturer.

Progress and the Path Forward

Since Transparency International Rwanda's groundbreaking work, awareness has grown. The Office of the Ombudsman established victim support helpdesks, and some universities have adopted dedicated anti-harassment policies. Anti-Corruption Clubs in universities now empower student-led advocacy, while media partnerships bring hidden abuses into public discourse.

Yet cultural stigma rooted in gender norms continues to frame sexual harassment discussions as taboo, with victim-blaming shifting focus from perpetrators' wrongdoing to victims' perceived "moral failings." Religious and moral teachings, when interpreted narrowly, reinforce silence over disclosure.

During these 16 Days of Activism, we must recognise sexual corruption as gender-based violence. Students need independent reporting mechanisms, neutral parties handling grade entry, confidential counseling, and proportionate sanctions for perpetrators including dismissal and potentially criminal prosecution. Victims of sexual corruption need safe and confidential access to mental health, legal and other support services. And we all need to break the silence that makes it easy for perpetrators of sexual corruption to go unchallenged and unpunished.

Rwanda's legal framework could model global change – but only if backed by enforcement that matches its ambition. For countless students facing impossible choices, stronger action isn't just needed – it's overdue.

TI-MALAYSIA BI-MONTHLY WEBINAR

UPCOMING



A Webinar Series

Forum - Unmasking Corruption in Procurement: Cartels, Collusion & Controls

Programme Overview
Procurement corruption remains one of the most prevalent and damaging forms of corporate and public-sector fraud. This program aims to differentiate the roles of Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC) and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in addressing procurement-related misconduct.

Learning Outcome
This program equips participants with a clear understanding of corruption and anti-competitive practices in procurement, clarifies the roles and legal mandates of enforcement authorities in addressing corruption and abuse of power, and introduces key legal frameworks and practical tools to identify red flags, collusion patterns, and misconduct across both public and private sector procurement processes.

Date: 21 JAN, 2026
Time: 10.00 am
Location: ONLINE Via ZOOM

Scan the Qr code to register

Speakers:

- YBhg. Dato' Mohammed Zainuri bin Zainul Abidin, Senior Director Special Operations Division, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)
- Mr. Mohd Hasbullah bin Mohamed Faizal, Principal Assistant Director, Investigation and Enforcement Division, Malaysia Competition Commission

Moderator:

- Mr Muhammad Nazri Shaidon, Executive Committee (EXCO), Transparency International Malaysia

21 January 2026



Isi Kandungan Utama Latihan

- Pengenalan kepada Integriti
- Kepentingan Integriti di Tempat Kerja
- Cabaran dan Ancaman IGU menangani isu Integriti
- Peranan Setiap Individu
- Langkah Memperkasa Integriti

Objektif Program

1. Meningkatkan kesedaran tentang integriti dan tadbir urus.
2. Memahami peranan dan fungsi IGU dalam mencegah salah laku.
3. Memperkuuh keupayaan pegawai IGU secara strategik.
4. Membudayakan integriti dalam organisasi melalui nilai dan sistem sokongan.

TI-MALAYSIA IN THE NEWS

October, November, December

TI-MALAYSIA IN THE NEWS

October, November, December

A screenshot of the New Straits Times Business Times website. The main headline is 'Leissner extradition could unlock key 1MDB evidence'. Below the headline is a photo of a man with dark hair and a beard. The website's navigation bar includes links for Top stories, Headlines, Business, Opinion, Sports, and Life. There are also links for Trending news and a search bar. The bottom of the page features a large '1MDB' logo and the text '1Malaysia Development Berhad'.

A person in a dark suit is holding a light-colored document, possibly a contract or legal paper. In the background, a set of scales of justice is visible, symbolizing law and balance. The overall theme is the fight against corruption.