

MACC TODAY

Together



FIGHT CORRUPTION

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Malaysia Not Facing Corruption Crisis



Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim

TUNKU Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim today said it was unfair and ridiculous for Transparency International President Jose Ugaz to say that Malaysia was facing a corruption crisis and was a failed state.

"It is an unfair comment to make. Transparency International has been ill-advised," said the MACC Anti-Corruption Advisory Board Chairman.

He refuted Ugaz's statement, saying one unsolved case that had been "haunting Malaysia" does not prove that the country is in a crisis. Ugaz, in his speech at the 16th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) said Malaysia is facing a corruption crisis following the unanswered allegations of the RM2.6 billion "donation" which was allegedly transferred into Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's personal bank account.

"The speech made by the President of Transparency International (Wednesday), where he repeated the charge that Malaysia is in a corruption crisis; I think that this statement is ill-advised; it was an ill-informed statement," he said.

Tunku Aziz stressed that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) was, and is still investigating the case, adding that it was important to let the authorities complete their investigations, according to the law.



Michael Hershman

MALAYSIA is not facing a corruption crisis but the country is "not yet out of the woods", said Transparency International co-founder Michael Hershman.

He said Malaysia needed to clarify "the one thing that the world is giving attention to" now, which is the 1Malaysia Development Berhad issue.

The issue needed to be resolved for the country to proceed with its transformation, he told reporters at a workshop session of the 16th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC). Hershman served in the international advisory board of the Malaysian Government Transformation Programme committee for three years, from 2010.

He had earlier presented a paper on 'Fighting Corruption by Authorities: What Worked and What Went Wrong'.

Hershman said that corruption in Malaysia was still under control although a lot of work still needed to be done.

He said this should include putting in place regulations on the financing of political institutions.

MACC Inks MoU With Timor Leste, Maldives



Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Paul Low (centre) shaking hands with Maldives Acting High Commissioner to Malaysia, Mohamed Fahmee Hassan, after the MoU signing ceremony between the MACC and Timor Leste and Maldives Anti-Corruption Commissions. Also present were (from left) Timor Leste Ambassador to Malaysia, Jose Amorim Dias; MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner (Management and Professionalism), Datuk Mohd Jamidan Abdullah, MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention), Datuk Mustafar Ali, Timor Leste Anti-Corruption Chief Commissioner, Aderito Antonio Pinto Tilman, and Maldives Anti-Corruption Chief Commissioner, Sofwath Mohamed. MACC Images

Key Institutions Must Be Lauded

Institutions that are standing up to impunity even though faced with challenges must be lauded, said President of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), Malaysia Dr Chandra Muzaffar.

In his speech on Ending Impunity: People, Integrity and Action at the 16th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC), Dr Chandra said Malaysian institutions like the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), Bank Negara Malaysia, the Police and the Attorney-General's Chambers are committed and dedicated and are prepared to stand by their conscience.

"They are willing to stand up and be counted during critical moments as what it is happening in our country today.

"In MACC, there are people in the police, people in the AG's Chambers and people in Bank Negara who are prepared to stand up for what's right and this is the most important development in our country today.

"These people, my friends, need to be applauded for what they do. They put their lives at risk, their families at risk but they are not giving up," said Dr Chandra, which drew a rapturous applause from the crowd.

Dr Chandra said it is their commitment and determination which will shape the future of Malaysia.

"This is something that I had always hoped to see. I am glad that in the evening of my life, I am able to see the signs of a culture that is changing.

"Here for their principles you have people who are willing to stand up even though they know that the risks involved are tremendous," he said.

The other change Dr Chandra has seen is the activism within civil society in Malaysia, which has been



happening in the last 15 years.

“This activism is very significant. Prepared to speak up, prepared to stand up. It is important because you have to link it with the other changes that are taking place in society.”

“Malaysia is seeing democratisation, a greater sense of accountability,” he said.

Dr Chandra also emphasised that religion is important in combating corruption.

He said that he would like to see people with religion standing up and saying that corruption is unacceptable in terms of their own religious values.

Dr Chandra added that civil disobedience has to be a weapon in the struggle for a corruption free society.

“We must say - Look, our energies are not for you because you are corrupt. You must tell them that they have not done their duty for the nation.

“I am optimistic about our future inspite of everything. Why? Because when I look at the situation today, I find that many countries are able to prevent impunities.

“I am also very hopeful because, with the advent of modern technology, people cannot hide their wrongdoing.

“The ones who violates the most

basic principle, be it graft or other things, have no where to hide.”



Dr Chandra Muzaffar

Bilateral Meetings



MACC - Timor Leste. MACC Images



MACC-Senegal Anti-Corruption And Fraud Office. MACC Images



MACC-Armenian CSOs Anti-Corruption Coalition. MACC Images

Fighting Corruption: What Works and What Went Wrong



Left to right. Daniel Li Ming Chak, Datuk Mustafar Ali, Datuk Seri Azman Ujang (Moderator), Dato Paduka Muhammad Juanda A Rashid, and Michael Hershman. *Bernama Images*

MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention), Datuk Mustafar Ali, Brunei Anti-Corruption Bureau Director, Dato Paduka Muhammad Juanda A. Rashid, and former Deputy Commissioner of the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption, Daniel Li Ming Chak, yesterday shared the successes achieved, and the challenges faced by their respective anti-corruption agencies in fighting corruption.

To make its anti-corruption initiatives work, the MACC endeavoured to win public support and confidence by implementing an effective check and balance mechanism in the form of five independent oversight bodies which scrutinise the agency's operations, and recommend measures to overcome any weaknesses, Mustafar said.

MACC employs a multi-pronged approach in fighting corruption by enhancing efficiency in investigation methods, strengthening prevention measures, and promoting community education.

MACC's Transformation Programme has achieved the desired results. In 2014, MACC successfully completed 85% of its investigations within one year.

In the same year, the World Bank gave Malaysia 6th placing in its 'Ease of Doing Business Report', for the MACC's

initiative in introducing measures to reduce opportunities for corruption in doing business.

However, there are six elements that could frustrate anti-corruption efforts.

These are: lack of transparency, the granting of discretionary powers to government agencies, bureaucratic red tape, lack of accountability, opportunity for those in authority to form relationships with vested interest, and political interference.

For the Brunei Anti-Corruption Bureau, its success in apprehending offenders is attributed to the joint-investigations and cross-border cooperation with the MACC, Juanda said.

The ACB has established bilateral cooperation with the MACC since 2002 and over the years, many Brunei offenders who went into hiding in Malaysia have been brought to book.

The fight against corruption will prove futile unless the anti-corruption authority is helmed by a dedicated individual who will leave no stone unturned to uncover graft and apprehend corruption offenders, Chak said.

In this regard, he cautioned against appointing politicians who are prone to be

more concerned with image building than apprehending the corrupt. The salary disparity between the private sector and civil service is one of the factors that lead to temptation. "Pay your people well," he added.

Micheal Hershman, who helped design the NKRA Against Corruption and the MACC Transformation programmes, suggested having a robust Freedom of Information Act to enable civil society to monitor their leaders' performance.

People need to know why things go wrong and who to blame for them. As it now stands, the anti-corruption authority is the favourite punching bag.

"No matter how good you are, if you are always criticised for something that is not your fault, you will be demoralised, and this will affect your performance and peace of mind," he said.

The lack of understanding, cooperation, and overlapping procedures in law enforcement agencies are some of the other factors that hamper the fight against corruption, Hershman concluded.

MACC Anti-Corruption Advisory Board member, Datuk Seri Azman Ujang moderated the session.

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