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MACC 47 YEARS of Fighting Corruption



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REPORT CORRUPTION

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Fight Corruption Without Fear Or Favour, Sultan Nazrin Says – By Mohd Azhar Ibrahim



His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah. *Bemama Images*

His Royal Highness, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah called on the authorities to take comprehensive measures to fight corruption in the country without fear or favour.

This is because corruption is one of the main reasons that stunted economic growth, discouraged foreign investments, increased the cost of doing business, caused treasury leakages, unsustainable development, environmental pollution, and uneven distribution of wealth, which resulted in a widening income gap.

“If left unchecked, corruption will seep into the culture of the people and eventually leads to the destruction of the race and country,” His Royal Highness said.

Sultan Nazrin who holds a Doctorate in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University said this in his Royal Address at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission’s (MACC) 47th Anniversary celebrations at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Plenary Hall, recently.

His Royal Highness said it would be pointless to form all sorts of enforcement agencies if there is selective enforcement and investigation.

The fight against corruption must encompass a comprehensive approach with special focus on administering punitive measures without fear or favour, and on promoting a culture of integrity and noble values in society.

Corruption is a debilitating social disease borne either out of hardship or out of avarice.

Those who are struggling to put food on the table are enticed into corruption to make ends meet. On the other hand, those who have a penchant for high living succumb to graft out of pure, unbridled greed.

The rapacious antics of the later have wider and far-reaching impact that petty corruption, His Royal Highness who is also the Financial Ambassador of the Malaysian Islamic Financial Centre (MIFC), added.

There is no silver bullet to fighting corruption. Controlling corruption is only possible when you can inculcate the principles of ethics, integrity and noble values in the people, Sultan Nazrin said.

Sultan Nazrin noted that by and large, democracy and freedom of speech has proven ineffective in fighting corruption. His Royal Highness made mention of China’s draconian anti-corruption laws

where, in 2013 alone, more than two hundred thousand civil servants have been punished – some with their lives – for graft.

In China, government officials who lead ostensible lifestyles are put under the microscope and asked to declare their assets and sources of income, and enforcement agencies that failed to stamp out graft and other unethical activities are brought to book, said Sultan Nazrin who is also an Eminent Fellow of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia.

Sultan Nazrin noted that the MACC has made headway in winning the heart of the people in its fight against corruption.

Citing the 2013 Public Perception Survey, the Perak Monarch said the public perception of the effectiveness of the MACC has increased from 63 percent in 2012 to 65.8 percent in 2013.

Correspondingly, the level of public support for the Commission has increased to 87.3 percent compared to 86.4 percent previously.

“The MACC has initiated its own Transformation Programme to further enhance its capacity, capability and effectiveness in meeting the challenges that lie ahead in the war against corruption,” His Royal Highness added.

Sultan Nazrin firmly believes that elected government officials should not expect any special treatment when carrying out their duty and responsibility towards the people.

In this respect, the Perak Ruler have decreed, in the Perak State Council Meeting held in September 2014, that government departments in Perak do away with special gifts for him in any formal event that His Royal Highness has consented to grace.

Certified Integrity Officer Programme Goes Global

The Certified Integrity Officer (CeIO) Programme, a programme offered by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to instil internal control mechanism in order to fight corruption, will be expanded internationally, said MACC Chief Commissioner, Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed.

Abu Kassim said that during the Closing Ceremony of the Executive Certificate Course for Strategic Management of Anti-Corruption Programme that was held at the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy (MACA). Twenty people joined the programme.

He advised the course participants to



MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim addressing the CeIO participants. *MACC Images.*

“We will extend the CeIO programme to international participants so that MACC can share expertise with other countries in cultivating integrity officers,” said Abu Kassim.

MACC is the first agency in the world to introduce the CeIO programme.

The CeIO programme is held to cultivate Integrity Officers in an organisation. Among the objectives of this programme are to identify, effectively plan and make accurate decisions regarding integrity issues.

“We would like to share our experiences and achievements, especially in the aspect of CeIO, with other countries,” said Abu Kassim who is also the Vice-President of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA).

apply the knowledge and experiences that were gathered during the course and adapt the good practices to suit the situation in their respective countries.

“Through this kind of courses, we get to share and gather best practices of other countries. Learning process takes place and every experience that we encounter is vital to our respective organization and country,” he said.

Mauritius Independent Commission against Corruption Investigations Head, Jean-Claude Daniel Chung Yen said that his experience and mind have been enriched during the sharing of information sessions during the course.

He said that this programme proves that the MACC is very committed in developing anti-corruption initiatives at

international level.

Egypt Administrative Control Authority Officer, Islam Wageeh Abdelaziz Bakir said that the integrity management technique that was pioneered by MACC is organised and effective.

“The most important aspect for my country is the integrity system which was developed by MACC and I hope it will be implemented there as soon as possible,” said Islam Wageeh.

This course was held in accordance with the spirit of South-South cooperation whereby the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme played an important role in signalling Malaysia's commitment in sharing its experience as well as strengthening two-way cooperation with other developing countries.

The members of the accreditation board are appointed by the Chief Secretary to the Government upon the advice of the Chief Commissioner of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and are prominent public personalities who are experienced, who have served in the public sector with excellence and of high integrity.

The CeIO programme, which began in 2013, is an accredited integrity programme coordinated and conducted by the Corporate Integrity Development Centre (CIDB) at MACA with the aim of nurturing certified integrity officers.

Certified by the Certified Integrity Officer Accreditation Board upon completion of the training course, these individuals are bestowed the title of CeIO (Certified Integrity Officer).

The initiative of the Certified Integrity Officer programme, envisions a mechanism capable of creating a nation of high stature and integrity and that eliminates all forms of corruption namely bribery, abuse of power and misuse of funds.



(From Left) Daniel Lim Ming Chak, Bertrand de Speville, Datuk Hisham Nordin, and Prof Alan Doig. *MACC Images.*

MACC Has The Right Building Blocks In Place

By Mohd Azhar Ibrahim

Asked how he would rate the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) performance and achievements since the Commission started its Transformation Programme in 2011, the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) Programme and Activity Coordinator, Prof Alan Doig said the right building blocks have been put in place and are in the right order.

"The MACC is setting itself in the right direction on a journey that would transform the Commission into a much more effective organisation in the longer term. The MACC has displayed a positive attitude towards improving its performance and effectiveness," Doig said.

The MACC has done some serious soul-searching to find out how it can improve itself, and it is doing just that, he added.

Doig, together with former Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Deputy Commissioner, Daniel Lim Ming Chak, and former ICAC Commissioner, Bertrand de Speville, spent two days

in Kuala Lumpur recently.

The three renowned anti-corruption experts are members of an international review panel (IRP) tasked to assess the performance and achievements of the MACC.

During their stay here they spoke with and listened to various quarters in the MACC, members of the five independent panels, and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Paul Low Seng Kuan.

Bertrand de Speville, who has advised governments and international organisations on various aspects of anti-corruption policy and practice, believes the MACC senior officers and independent panel members that he talked to are committed in combating corruption at all fronts and that they

are a credit to the country.

He also believes that what gets measured gets done, and conversely, what gets done should be measured.

"MACC's progress at fighting corruption should be measured at regular intervals by conducting a public opinion survey to gauge public perception on the level of corruption in the country, the level of public support for the fight against corruption, and the peoples' attitude towards corruption," de Speville said.

The ultimate objective of any anti-corruption campaign is not to see how many people you can lock away for corruption offences. Rather, it is to change the personal attitude of the people from one of relative tolerance towards corruption to zero-tolerance, he added.

However, de Speville, who is a former Hong Kong solicitor-general himself,



"The MACC has displayed a positive attitude towards improving its performance and effectiveness and is moving in the right direction" - Professor Alan Doig



"If members of the five independent panels, who are well respected Malaysian citizens, are satisfied that the MACC is on the right track, then the rest of the community can be assured that the MACC is doing a proper job" - Bertrand de Speville

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL

firmly believes that just as the process of going through a trial and passing down judgment in a court of law is independent of each other, so should investigation and prosecution of corruption offences.

Meanwhile, Lim noted that the MACC already have its hand full investigating and preventing corruption and reaching out to the public to promote anti-corruption education.

Lim feels that the MACC would need more staff in order to sustain the effectiveness of its anti-corruption investigation and prevention initiatives.

The IRC believes the MACC is in a position to keep the corruption level in check. Nevertheless, they advised the public against laying the blame squarely on the MACC for every graft fiasco as other government agencies and ministries have an equally important role to play in the fight against corruption.

In the private sector, this means making corporate entities liable for the non-ethical practices of their staff while in the line of duty.

The distinguished panel members reminded Malaysian not to expect quick fixes.

It will take time for the statistics on the success of the MACC Transformation Programme to stream in. Meanwhile Malaysians from all walks of life should lend their support to the MACC's quest for a 'cleaner' and ethical society.

This is especially holds true for those who hold sway in the corridors of power. They must walk the talk for without political will, all of the MACC's effort will be like pouring water down

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) aspires to increase public confidence that it is independent, transparent, and professional in conducting its investigations and at the same time improve the perception of local and international communities on the Commission's effectiveness in combating corruption.

Towards this end, in 2011, the MACC embarked on a holistic and comprehensive transformation programme to enhance the quality of its operations, human capital and prevention initiatives.

The Commission established a Transformation Executive Committee (TEC) comprising senior officers and members of its five independent panels to detect weaknesses and recommend remedial measures to step up its investigation, prevention, education, and human capital development.

In light of the TEC's findings and recommendations, the MACC has introduced more than 30 initiatives to enhance the Commission's functionality and effectiveness.

In phase two of the Government's General Transformation

Programme (GTP2.0) the NKRA Against Corruption has appointed an international review panel (IRP) to assess the success and effectiveness of the MACC Transformation Programme and suggest recommendations for further improvements as it deems fit.

To get an unbiased assessment the Malaysian Government commissioned an independent review panel to put the MACC under their microscope.

IRP members Prof Alan Doig, Daniel Lim Ming Chak and Bertrand de Speville spent two days in Kuala Lumpur recently to carry out their mandated task.

They held separate discussions with senior MACC officers and members of the five independent panels respectively, and listened to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Paul Low Seng Kuan to hear what the minister has in store in the way of enhancing the integrity in the private and public sectors.

Subsequently, the distinguished anti-corruption experts held a media session to shed some light on their findings.



"I think the MACC is in the position where they can keep the level of corruption in the country in check" - Daniel Lim Ming Chak



MACA Director Datuk Abdul Wahab Aziz (left) and MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention), Datuk Mustafar Ali. *Bernama Images*

Mustafar urged those who have any complaints on corruption to come forward and report them to the MACC. They can rest assure they will be protected under the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010 and the Witness Protection Act 2009, he said.

The Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy (MACA), which was established on 12 April, 2007, conducts more than one hundred courses annually to enhance the capacity and professionalism of MACC officers, MACA Director, Datuk Abdul Wahab Aziz, said.

The MACA, with its four centres and four schools, regularly conducts courses covering investigation, intelligence gathering, prosecution, and corruption management and

Break The Corruption Chain By Mohd Azhar Ibrahim

In conjunction with the International Anti-Corruption Day 2014 which falls on 9 December, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption (MACC) Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention), Datuk Mustafar Ali and the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy (MACA) Director, Datuk Abdul Wahab Aziz were the guests for Bernama TV's 'Hello Malaysia', a talk show sharing information on combating corruption and efforts at breaking the corruption chain.

Mustafar started the show by elaborating on the evolution of the MACC. He said in the early Merdeka (Independence) years, anti-corruption efforts spread over three different agencies. Prevention activities fell to a small unit under the Prime Minister's Department, a Special Crimes Unit of the Royal Malaysian Police Department handled investigations, while the Attorney General's Chambers was in charge of prosecution.

When the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) was set up in 1967, it took over all three functions. In 1973, the ACA became the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), which was a department under the Home Ministry. However, it reverted to its old name with the enactment of the ACA Act in 1982. The transition to becoming an independent anti-corruption body became a reality when the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission was established under the MACC Act on 1 January, 2009.

The MACC's mission is to stamp out corruption in the country and to get public support in fighting corruption. Five independent panels that act as

check and balance mechanisms ensure that the MACC carries out its duties and responsibilities in an independent, transparent and professional manner without fear or favour, Mustafar said.

The five independent panels are the Anti-Corruption Advisory Board; Special Committee on Corruption; Complaints Committee; Operations Review Panel; and the Consultation and Corruption Prevention Panel.

Panel members comprise of former senior government officials, politicians from the ruling coalition and opposition, professionals, academicians, lawyers and distinguished individuals, help in enhancing the MACC's efficiency and effectiveness, he added.

Asked why we should fight corruption, Mustafar who holds a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of New Haven in Connecticut, USA, said corruption is a global phenomenon that fuels social unrest and violence. If left unchecked it will eventually lead to a nation's downfall.

"The World Anti-Corruption Day serves to highlight the evils of corruption and make societies throughout the world understand why it is important to fight corruption," Mustafar said.

On World Anti-Corruption Day, anti-corruption authorities all over the world hold activities such as exhibitions, social runs, fora and dialogues to promote awareness and promote public support in fighting corruption.

prevention. These courses are open to MACC officers as well as those from other enforcement agencies including the private sector.

MACA gained international recognition when the Vienna-based International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) chose to conduct a module of its International Masters Programme in Anti-Corruption at the academy, Abdul Wahab said.

The 10th Annual Meeting of the South-East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC) which was concluded in Kuala Lumpur recently, acknowledged the MACA as a regional anti-corruption training hub for SEA-PAC members, he added.

MACA's Certified Integrity Officer Programme (CeIO) has thus far produced 250 CeIOs from both the public and private sectors. These CeIOs have gone on to head the Integrity Units that have been set up in all government departments and agencies, including multi-national corporations, to inculcate a culture of integrity. MACA also conducts a separate CeIO programme for international participants, Wahab said.

The MACC has initiated its very own Transformation Programme in 2011, targeted to enhance its operation, human capital and corruption prevention measures. The fruit of this initiative was revealed when Malaysia received a score of 52 in the 2014 Corruption Perception Index (CPI), two points better than the previous year's score of 50.

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