

MACC TODAY

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FIGHT CORRUPTION

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Enhanced Operation Strategy Boosts MACC's Corruption Prevention Capacity

The initiatives and action plan implemented by the MACC under its operation sector transformation programme have enhanced its corruption prevention capacity, said the Anti-Corruption Advisory Board (ACAB) in its 2014 Report.

The ACAB, one of the five independent bodies tasked to monitor the MACC's performance, pointed out that the MACC has recorded significant achievements under its operations and human capital transformation programmes.

"New mechanisms introduced under the human capital transformation programme have greatly enhanced MACC officers' skills and competency level across the board. The enhanced efficacy has boosted and improved performance, leaving a positive impact on the MACC," the report said.

The MACC has implemented more than 30 initiatives under its operation sector transformation.

These initiatives, which include the MACC PEACE interview technique, team-based investigation (TBI) method, complaints management system (CMS), forensic accounting procedures, standard operations procedures for private sector investigations, and the MACC Peer Review, have greatly enhanced MACC's investigations and intelligence gathering procedures in terms of quality and professionalism.

The ACAB Report acknowledges that the operations transformation programme, which is comprehensive and focuses on improving MACC investigation methods, have left a positive impact.

It noted that the operation transformation programme has not only shortened the overall investigation period, it has also produced better quality investigations, which in turn, led to the increase in conviction rate for cross-border graft cases.



(From left) Datuk Noraini Ahmad, Datuk Irmohizam Ibrahim, Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed, Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang, Datuk Fauzi Abd Rahman dan Dr. Tan Seng Giaw at the handing over of the MACC Annual Report 2014 and the Anti-Corruption Advisory Board (ACAB) Comments to the Special Committee on Corruption (SCC). *MACC Images*

Consequently, this has boosted public confidence in the MACC as a national anti-corruption body.

MACC's human capital transformation has also achieved the desired outcome, the ACAB report noted. It not only complements the operation sector transformation; it has also enhanced MACC investigation officers' capability, competency and professionalism, including facilitating their promotion, placement, accreditation, training and development, career advancement, and succession plan.

The MACC has recorded a string of successes in 2014. However, it was also a challenge-filled year.

According to the ACAB, the International Review Panel (IRP) formed in 2014 to assess the transformation achievements, has taken

cognisance of the various good practices introduced by the MACC to beef up the level of professionalism in the organisation. This includes having put in place a transparent standard operating procedure, skill enhancement programmes for staff, and specific activities designed to increase public awareness.

Nevertheless, the IRP notes that there is room for improvement. A few loose ends can be tightened up but to do so require more manpower, resources, and time. The ACAB holds the view that it is impossible to fight the corruption scourge without public support.

The fight against corruption in Malaysia should not be the responsibility of the MACC exclusively; it requires a concerted effort and commitment on the part of the government, the lawmakers, civil societies, and the man on the street, the report said.

MACC Transformation Producing The Desired Results

The MACC started its Transformation Programme in 2010 to enhance its operations, human capital and prevention sectors. In the following five years, MACC implemented new initiatives to boost its performance and fine-tuned those methods and procedures that it found still relevant.

The MACC Transformation Programme has contributed to the MACC's success in several key areas. This includes successfully completing investigations within one year after receiving a corruption complaint.

The MACC solved 85 per cent or 781 out of the 919 investigation papers opened in 2014. This is a significant improvement over the 81.6 percent achieved in 2013 and 75 percent for 2012.

"This success is attributed to the management of team investigation (MTI) approach adopted by the operations sector under its transformation

programme," MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed, said.

The MTI is one of the initiatives introduced under the MACC transformation programme

Other initiatives include using: a more systematic, effective and efficient Complaints Management System (CMS); a Video Interview Room (VIR) which eliminates complaint of violent treatment against witnesses, suspects and remanded persons while recording their statements; the management of team investigation (MTI) approach; and the Investigations Operations Room (BGOS). Employing all these new methods have resulted in better quality investigations as well as shortened the overall investigation period.

Two thousand and fourteen has been a very challenging but meaningful year for the MACC. The icing on the cake is when the Commission's anti-corruption

initiatives and success – which were the result of total commitment and dedication from its staff coupled with unflinching support from all parties – received wide acclaim at both the local and international levels.

Brunei's Anti-Corruption Bureau has deemed it fit to emulate the MTI approach and the use of the BGOS facilities.

"The MACC takes pride in the fact that its MTI initiative has been adopted by a foreign anti-corruption agency," Abu Kassim added.

In terms of operations, MACC officers managed to apprehend 552 corruption offenders in 2014 compared to 509 people the previous year.

Of the 919 investigation papers opened during the year, 326 (35.3%) were for accepting bribes, 159 (17.3%) for giving bribes, 283 (30.8%) for making false claims, 69 (7.5%) involving the

MACC TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

Establishing a Complaints Management System (CMS) that is effective and efficient.

Use of a Video Interviewing Room (VIR) in which to record statements.

Management of Team-based Investigation method (MTI).

Use of an investigation operations room (BGOS) to improve investigation procedures.

Applying the MACC PEACE interviewing technique to gain the witness' or detainee's cooperation during the statement recording process.

Establishing procedures to facilitate private sector investigation.

Applying pro-active investigation procedures.

Initiating a MACC Peer Review Programme to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practices and capacity building with other anti-corruption agencies.

SUMMARY OF MACC's ACHIEVEMENTS

The Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy (MACA) selected to conduct a module of the Masters in Anti-Corruption Studies programme offered by Vienna-based International Anti-Corruption Academy.

Malaysia's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) score in 2014 increases to 52 as compared to 55 in 2013.

Increase in the number of corruption investigations completed within a year.

Increased public confidence in the MACC.

Increase in the number of corruption cases heard in the courts.

23 MACC anti-corruption initiatives have been acknowledged as best practices by the UNODC.

abuse of power, and 82 (8.9%) for other miscellaneous offences.

The total number of corruption charges brought to the courts has increased to 317 cases in 2014 compared to 289 cases in 2013.

"The courts collected RM13 million in fines from corruption offenders in 2014 compared to RM11.6 million for 2013," said Abu Kassim.

In addition to this, the courts also seized some RM 2.8 million in assets.

The conviction rate is now at a comfortable 78% compared to the 54% in 2009 when the MACC was established.

The MACC also carried out 136 Inspection and Consultancy Papers for government and private agencies.

Subsequently, the Commission submitted 231 recommendations for improvement, one of which involves beefing up land administration and enforcement system and procedures in the Cameron Highlands, an issue that attracted much attention in 2014.

These inspection were pursued under the 'Citizenising the MACC' policy which

"The MACC's success in solving the cases proved that the MACC Transformation programme has yielded positive results"

Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed, MACC Chief Commissioner

centre on resolving issues that are of national and public concern.

Under the 'Citizenising the MACC' policy, the Commission has successfully unraveled several incidences involving the wide scale syndicated embezzlement of government aid like the siphoning of aid fund for Terengganu fishermen and another to curb illegal logging in Sarawak.

The MACC transformation programme has increased the public confidence level in MACC to 67.8% in 2014 compared to 65.8% the previous year.

With ongoing improvement efforts, the MACC aims to bring the public confidence level up to 70% in 2015.

The increase in Malaysia's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) score to 52 in 2014 from 50 in 2013 is another factor that signifies the country's success in combating corruption.

"The many developments and achievements – domestically and internationally – that we have made in 2014 were the result of the tireless effort of MACC officers, coupled with unrelenting support from many parties," Abu Kassim said.

The combination of transformation programme and Citizenising MACC policy has given a new impetus for the MACC to pursue and achieve its vision and mission.

Tan Sri Abu Kassim said the public has high expectations of the MACC.

"Their hope and aspirations are a trust and obligation placed upon our shoulders; a duty which the MACC must fulfill to the best of its ability for the good of the country," he added.

TOKOH PEMBANGUNAN SPRM: MACC MUST THRIVE TO KEEP ITS INDEPENDENCE

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission held a send-off ceremony for Dato' Sri Zakaria Jaffar who retired as MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner (Management & Professionalism) on 12 October, after 33 years of meritorious service.

Dato' Sri Zakaria started his anti-corruption career in 1982 as an Investigation Officer with the then Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) and rose up the corporate ladder to become Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention).

He has the distinction of being the first Deputy Chief Commissioner (Management & Professionalism) when the position was created in April 2010.

Dato' Sri Zakaria played an pivotal role in MACC's infrastructure development, from the commission having just two offices – one in Penang and the other Negeri Sembilan – to the nine office complexes that it now have in various states in the peninsula, including Sarawak.

A deeply religious person, Dato' Sri Zakaria believes that one should always strive to carry out the duty and responsibility entrusted upon oneself with the utmost integrity.

In his farewell speech, he urged MACC officers to always be independent, transparent and professional, and to conduct their investigations with the utmost probity.

Touching on the current scenario, Dato Sri Zakaria said: "Despite the turmoil and upheavals, having been entrusted to fight corruption, MACC officers must shoulder on with their duties and responsibilities to the best of their abilities, in an independent and professional manner, with the utmost integrity, and without fear or favour."

As the people's support and confidence level is on positive path, MACC officers need to enhance their performance to curb corruption, said Dato' Sri Zakaria.

"Curbing and combatting corruption is the paramount duty of MACC officers," he further said.

"Now that we have the Malay Rulers and the rakyat solidly on our side, we must not let up on our investigations," he added.

Through the MACC human resource transformation programme, Dato' Sri Zakaria has helped create a pool of dedicated MACC officers who are committed to fight corruption in the most efficient and effective manner

Tan Sri Abu Kasim Mohamed, MACC Chief Commissioner

However, every cloud has a silver lining. These developments have shored up public support for the MACC. MACC has showed improvements since it was formed in 2009 to replace ACA as an independent commission.

For his relentless effort in ensuring the MACC's infra-structure and manpower development and his contribution towards the MACC achieving a Tier Five Key Performance Index system, Dato' Sri Zakaria was honoured with the Tokoh Pembangunan SPRM award.



Dato' Sri Zakaria Jaffar exhorting MACC officers to be independent, transparent and professional, and to conduct their investigations with the utmost probity. MACC Images