



CORRUPTION

ALIRAN

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This little book is the result of a seminar on 'Corruption and Society' organised by ALIRAN in Kuala Lumpur on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th November 1980.

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Preface

This little book is the product of a seminar on 'Corruption and Society' organised by ALIRAN in Kuala Lumpur on the 2nd. November 1980.

The five papers presented at the seminar which have been reproduced here with modifications deal with some of the major issues in corruption. To start with, the 'Scourge of Corruption' is an attempt to analyse the causes and consequences of this perennial problem in the context of development in the third world. The second paper 'Corruption and Spiritual Values' is a novel endeavour to show how our religious and cultural traditions regard corruption. 'Corruption and the Consumer' addresses itself directly to the disastrous impact of this social evil upon ordinary consumers — which means all of us. The paper on 'Corruption and the Environment' is concerned with the effects on corrupt relationships upon the destruction of the environment. The fifth and final paper, 'Corruption and the Malaysian Situation' is a general overview of the state of corruption in our country.

It is true that the topics covered do not amount to a comprehensive analysis of the problem of corruption. A seminar limited by such factors as the availability of speakers and the accessibility of data cannot hope to do that. We would be the first to admit however that such an in-depth, all-encompassing evaluation of the scourge as it has manifested itself in Malaysia is both necessary and urgent. ALIRAN — resources permitting — would consider it a duty to the nation to undertake such a task in the future.

In the meantime, we shall continue to produce books on important social themes. ALIRAN believes that the education of our society is one of the most vital challenges confronting us in the eighties. The literate stratum of society must be made aware of the problems of development and nationhood which range from freedom and ethnic relations to exploitation and corruption through rational, reflective analysis and evaluation. This is why in the course of the last 4 years — in spite of all the great difficulties of running a voluntary

organisation — we have given priority to the production of books. It is with some pride therefore that we celebrate the launching of **Corruption — our 10th book.**

Finally, the publications bureau would like to record its deep appreciation of the efforts of G. Vijayalakshmi who attended to the monotonous task of proof-reading the book. As always, Ismail Hashim's artistic skills were responsible for the cover. Needless to say, this book has its share of shortcomings. The responsibility for them lies with ALIRAN — and ALIRAN alone.

Publications Bureau
ALIRAN

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CORRUPTION AND SOCIETY

Eusof Izzudin

Welcome Address

Yang Mulia Raja Tan Sri Azlan Shah, Hakim Besar, Malaya, Yang Berbahagia Professor Datuk Ahmad Ibrahim, Dekan fakulti undang-undang, University Malaya, Encik Anwar Fazal, Presiden, Kesatuan Persatuan-Persatuan Pengguna Antarabangsa, Encik Gurmit Singh, Presiden, Persatuan Perlindungan Alam Sekitar, Dzaif-dzaif, Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan yang dihormati,

Bagi pihak Aliran Kesedaran Negara, saya sebagai Penyelaras Biro Seminar, dengan sukacita mengalu-alukan kehadiran tuan-tuan dan puan-puan pada pagi ini. Kesanggupan tuan-tuan dan puan-puan menyertai seminar ini adalah satu penghormatan kepada pihak kami.

As many of you are aware, ALIRAN is a non-partisan multi-ethnic reform movement concerned with social issues. As part of its concern, ALIRAN organises forums and seminars from time to time on social themes of direct relevance to the people. Our seminar this morning is on "Corruption and Society".

This is the first time that a full scale seminar on corruption has been organised by any group in the country. We regard corruption as a major social scourge in both developing and developed societies. Unfortunately, not much attention has been accorded to this problem in the third world in particular. Though corruption in Malaysia has not developed into a problem of the same seriousness as in a number of other countries, there is nonetheless a need to discuss the issue in a rational manner so that both public awareness and governmental concern will increase.

In order to achieve this aim, ALIRAN has got together a few speakers who are not involved in party politics to share their knowledge and understanding with us. We have as guest speakers Encik Anwar Fazal, President of the International Organisation of Consumers Unions who will speak on "Corruption and the

Consumer" and Encik Gurmit Singh President of the Environment Protection Society who will present a paper on "Corruption and the Environment." From within ALIRAN we have 3 papers:- 1) On the Scourge of Corruption, 2) Corruption and Spiritual Values. 3) and Corruption and the Malaysian Situation. We had also invited the Director General of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Attorney General to present papers at this seminar, but unfortunately they have not been able to accept our invitation.

The other participants in the seminar are all invited guests, who come from different social organisations. We have deliberately confined participation to groups that are not involved in party politics so that analysis and evaluation of the causes and effects of corruption will not be coloured by partisan considerations.

Finally, we have invited Yang Mulia Raja Tan Sri Azlan Shah, The Chief Justice of Malaya to open the seminar as an expression of our appreciation of the role of the judiciary in trying to combat corruption without fear or favour whenever the authorities have allowed cases of corruption to be brought to its attention. This has contributed in no small measure towards the stability of our democratic system. Both as a judge and as an individual who is actively involved in public life, Raja Tan Sri Azlan Shah has played a significant role in this accomplishment. It is therefore with great pride that ALIRAN welcomes him to this seminar.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, let me invite Yang Mulia Raja Tan Sri Azlan Shah to officially declare this seminar open.