

**MACC - the bigger the budget, the worse the graft**  
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's government has been mocked for achieving the country's lowest Corruption Perception Index (CPI) ranking despite a RM202.2 million budget to fight corruption.

Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng said parliament had approved the 2012 budget for the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission but the country's was now ranked No. 60, with its lowest CPI score of 4.3.

Lim (left) said in 1996, Parliament approved a budget of only RM29.4 million for the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA).

And that was the year when Malaysia was ranked No. 26, with the highest CPI score of 5.32 in the past 15 years, he added.

He urged Malaysians to compare the budgets given to ACA in 1996 and to MACC in 2011, and the Transparency International CPI ranking for the two years.

"Why MACC, despite being given a budget of almost seven times (the amount) that of 1996, had brought Malaysia's TI CPI in 2011 to the lowest ranking of 60 and score of 4.3 when in 1996 we could be ranked No. 26 with a score of 5.32?"

"It would appear that the bigger the budget and more staffing and resources given to MACC, the more corrupt Malaysia has become.

"Where have the increased RM172.8 million in the anti-corruption budgets between 1996 and 2011 gone to?" he asked.

Meanwhile, Lim said the MACC's huge operation budget is "overshadowed by abuses within its ranks".

He added that apart from allegations of corruption, there were two tragic deaths at MACC premises - Teoh Beng Hock in July 2009 and senior Customs officer Ahmad Sarbaini Mohamed on April 6, 2011.

He stressed that the refusal by Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin to establish a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the "cows and condos scandal" involving the family of a senior cabinet minister contributed to the loss of confidence in the MACC.

"Unless the prime minister gives MACC independent powers to prosecute freely and is answerable only to parliament, set up RCI for scandals, and compel public declaration of assets, Malaysia's CPI will only deteriorate," he said.