

Malaysia perceived as becoming more corrupt, says Kit Siang
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PETALING JAYA - Malaysia's reputation on the international level has suffered a major downslide as the country has increasingly been perceived as corrupted, according to DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang on Wednesday.

Referring to the latest report of Transparency International (TI) Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Lim said the country has been perceived as becoming more corrupt while other countries, such as China and Indonesia, have made improvement in their effort to tackle corruption.

He lamented that the country has become the "worst country in the TI CPI" over the past 16 years which saw its ranking fell from No. 23 in 1995 with CPI score of 5.28 to No. 56 with CPI score of 4.4 in 2010.

The Ipoh Timur MP said in the press statement: "After numerous anti-corruption campaigns, two major anti-corruption legislation and "transformation" of the former Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) into Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) with massive infusion of public funds and increase of staffing, Malaysia has continued to remain in the lowest TI CPI ranking of No. 56 out of 178."

"The NKRA on fighting corruption' had set the target to increase the TI CPI score from 4.5 last year to 4.9 this year, but the reverse has taken place, falling to a new national low of 4.4!" said Lim.

Government on right track

idris-jalaPenandu CEO Idris Jala had recently said last Thursday that the country is on the right path to tackle corruption despite noting that Malaysia has taken a slight dip in the CPI.

Idris, who is also Performance Management and Delivery Unit chief executive officer, had reportedly said the lower score reflected the nature of CPI and not the progress of Government Transformation Programme (GTP)'s National Key Results Area (NKRA) effort to fight corruption.

He also said a closer look on the score actually showed an improvement in the perception of respondents under some of the constituent surveys from 2009 to 2010: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (5.2 to 6.3), the Political & Economic Risk Consultancy's Asian Intelligence Newsletter (3.6 to 4.6), and the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report (4.5 to 4.6), Bernama reported.

Alexander Iskandar Liew, Director of Communications on GTP has supported Idris clarifying that the Transparency International CPI for 2010 took into account nine surveys that were conducted between January and December 2009 and from January to September 2010.

Therefore, "Our NKRA work on corruption only began in January 2010 after the GTP Roadmap launch on Jan 28, 2010. Therefore, the CPI surveys conducted in 2009 do not reflect the NKRA work which only began in 2010," Liew was quoted as saying Monday by Bernama.

However, The Ipoh Timur MP had claimed that the Government was trying to downplay the situation by selecting surveys which put the country in a good light, noting that only the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook which showed an improvement in Malaysia's rankings was tabled in Parliament.

Lim said it was "unacceptable and reprehensible" to imply that the TI CPI ranking and scores are incorrect or unreliable.

He further added that the TI had not changed its methodology and Malaysia's CPI 2010 was calculated by TI using nine sources by six independent institutions.

"Unless Pemandu challenges the validity of previous CPI scores, it cannot selectively dispute the validity of the 2010 CPI," the DAP veteran said.

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