



## GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

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# More bite in corruption fight

*Government out to prove critics wrong with key initiatives*

**C**OMBATING corruption is one of the six National Key Results Area (NKRA) identified in the Government Transformation Programme (GTP). The NKRA focuses on three key areas that are most prone to corruption, which are regulatory and enforcement agencies; government procurement and grand corruption.

One of the key initiatives for regulatory and enforcement agencies is to strengthen and empower compliance units.

This will reduce corruption by ensuring that there are checks and balances within the enforcement agencies, preventing opportunities for misconduct to go undetected.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is the lead agency overseeing delivery under the

NKRA. Currently, the police, Customs Department, Road Transport Department (RTD) and Immigration Department have established their own compliance units.

MACC is now focusing on ways to enhance the compliance units of these agencies.

"I have met with the heads of the law enforcement agencies and we are currently conducting training for officers of compliance units at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Academy (MACA)," said MACC chief commissioner Datuk Seri Abu Kassim Mohamed.

The police, Customs Department, RTD and the Immigration Department are the four agencies perceived as having the lowest integrity in the 2007 Malaysian Transparency Perception Survey. These four also

recorded the most number of corruption cases brought to court by the MACC in 2005 and last year.

This focus on compliance units is the latest NKRA initiative being implemented to restore public confidence and increase the Corruption Perception Index score, which saw Malaysia dropping from 23 in 1995 to 56 last year.

While it may take months before any positive results are seen, this initiative will deliver lasting and direct impact to the rakyat, who deal with enforcement officers on a daily basis.

Compliance monitoring is crucial in areas like the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), Commercial Crimes Investigations Department (CCID), Narcotics Department, and the Internal Security and Public Order Department in the police force; enforcement and customs divisions of Customs Department; enforcement, foreign workers, visa, pass, permit, security and passport divisions of the Immigration Department; and the enforcement division of RTD.

Apart from the compliance units, the government is looking at implementing several other initiatives that are designed to stop corrupt practices in other key areas of public service, including institutionalising job rotations to prevent any linkage between enforcement officers and criminal organisations and creating a performance league chart for local authorities.

Other initiatives include defining the parameters of "support letters", publishing details on government procurement, and conducting studies to revamp political funding.

A "zero-tolerance" policy has been formulated to protect whistle-blowers. The Whistle-blower Protection Law act was passed in Dewan Rakyat on April 20 and in Dewan Negara on May 6.

The government also aims to solve corruption cases within one year while stiffer punishment have been introduced, including a "name and shame" database that publishes the names of corrupt officers.



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— Datuk Seri Abu Kassim Mohamed  
chief commissioner of Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission



The police are perceived as one of four agencies with the lowest integrity and steps have been taken to improve public confidence in the force.



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