

THE STAR

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Check political corruption, says TI-M president

THE lack of transparency in political financing allows abuse in the political system, undermining the democratic process of elections, said Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) president Datuk Paul Low.

He said it was a positive sign that the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu) under the Prime Minister's Department was studying political corruption to propose reforms to laws governing political parties.

"Malaysia cannot achieve a high-income economy if economic decisions are subject to political influence or considerations," he said yesterday.

Calling political corruption the "mother of all corruption", Low said it would also bring about power abuse and lead to political patronage.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Liew Vui Keong said the Government wanted to focus on encouraging the people to report on crimes in enforcement agencies.

"Report the crime within fraternities like the police. That's why the Government introduced the Whistle Blowers' Act," he said.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner Datuk Abu Kassim Mohamed said the commission would focus on boosting its public image.

"We have developed our own aspirations parallel to the aspirations of the National Key Result Areas (NKRA). One is to boost the public confidence and perception levels towards our fight against corruption. The level of confidence is crucial because it has an impact on the overall perception level towards our country," Abu Kassim said.

He said the commission had to work closely with the other enforcement agencies to improve the attitude of law enforcement officers and the public's perception towards them.