

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	8/12/2018

'GO ALL OUT AGAINST GRAFT TO BE TIGER OF ASIA AGAIN'

NST- 3/12/2018 Pg. 6

Nation considered developed if there is no corruption, says PM

AZURA ABAS
AND HASHINI KAVISHTRI KANNAN
PUTRAJAYA
cnews@nstp.com.my

FOR Malaysia to join the ranks of developed countries and to be the Tiger of Asia again, Malaysia should view corruption seriously, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"I think it is about time Malaysia joined the list of developed and capable countries, and let the world know that it is a strong nation that respects democracy and the rule of law."

In his speech at the Sheikh Tamim Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award, he said it was incumbent upon Malaysians to en-

sure efforts to improve governance and introduce anti-corruption initiatives helped end corrupt practices and abuse of power.

"We are not proud that Malaysia was once associated with kleptocracy.

"We are not only trying to rid the nation of the label, but also to remind Malaysians that corruption is not something to be tolerated. It should be treated with disgust and anger."

Present was Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim Hamad Al-Thani.

Dr Mahathir said the nation could move forward by reducing corrupt practices.

"Malaysia and Malaysians can consider themselves developed when they can resist and end corruption."

He said the country and Malaysians made history in the May 9 general election when the coalition that was ruling since independence was voted out.

"Without doubt, it was the disgust for corruption that led the majority of Malaysians to stand

up and vote out the previous administration," he said, adding that corruption could damage society and the nation.

"Therefore, we should not look up to those who are corrupt, but instead, we should celebrate the people who are fighting it every day, which is why we are here today.

"Recipients of this year's awards have done outstanding work through academic research, creativity, lifetime engagement, and innovation in combating corruption in their respective communities.

"I hope Malaysians can draw inspiration from your work and that it will lead to increased awareness of the importance of having integrity."

One of the recipients was former chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Nuhu Ribadu for the Lifetime/Outstanding Achievement Award.

Nuhu, a Nigerian, said the award sent strong message to the corrupt and those fighting

corruption.

"When you fight corruption, it fights back," he said, adding that he lost many of his friends in the fight against corruption.

Nuhu reportedly took US\$15 million (RM62.4 million) that was offered to him to use it as evidence to nail the perpetrator.

The awards were organised by the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre in Doha, Qatar, with the support of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime.

It aims to promote the importance of tackling corruption around the world and the measures stipulated in the United Nations Convention against Corruption by acknowledging efforts in fighting corruption.

There were four awards categories — Anti-Corruption Lifetime/Outstanding Achievement; Anti-Corruption Academic Research and Education, Anti-Corruption Youth Creativity, and Engagement and Anti-Corruption Innovation. **Additional reporting by Zanariah Abd Mutalib**