

**Guan Eng says BN pick-and-choose world ranking**  
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**By Melissa Chi**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 4 — Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng today accused Putrajaya of practising double standards when it dismissed an unfavourable corruption ranking as subjective but trumpeted a favourable competitiveness index.

The DAP secretary-general pointed to a federal minister's dismissal of the latest Transparency International's (TI) Corruption Perception Index (CPI) who had earlier accepted the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) as proof of the Barisan Nasional (BN) federal government's bias.

Yesterday, Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah said Malaysia's dip in a recent Corruption Perception Index (CPI) was "subjective" and "questionable", adding that measures based on perception should not be used as the ultimate gauge.

"This is a classic case of denial by the BN federal government that corruption has worsened in Malaysia despite the Economic Transformation Program and Government Transformation Program by the prime minister," Lim (picture) said.

Malaysia's CPI score fell for the third year running, slipping to 4.3 this year and leaving it in 60th place out of 183 countries compared with 37th place when Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was prime minister in 2003.

"Worse, TI's survey of 1,000 respondents also found that the police and political parties were seen as the most corrupt institutions in the country, with most Malaysians believing that corruption levels would remain the same in the next three years," Lim said.

TI Malaysia (TI-M) deputy president Mohammad Ali noted that Malaysia's CPI continued to decline as "elements of state" that facilitated "grand corruption" were still prevalent.

"This state of denial that the truth hurts is most evident when the BN government praised itself for Malaysia's improvement by five spots to 21st place in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index(GCI) 2011 ranking from No. 26 last year.

"The BN should not take an ostrich in the sand approach but admit that Malaysia faces serious corruption levels," Lim said.

The lawmaker pointed out that if the evaluation by TI was done after the RM250 million "cows and condos" scandal exposed by the 2010 Auditor-General's Report, Malaysia decline in the CPI would be even worse.

"However the refusal of even a learned economist like Husni to face hard truths and reality shows that there is no hope of successfully combating corruption under a BN and UMNO that is willing to sacrifice principles for political expediency," he said.

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