

**TI-M urges all reps, public officials to declare assets**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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**By Lisa J. Ariffin**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16 — Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) today urged all elected and public officials to make a full and public disclosure of assets upon assuming office.

The call follows a move last week by Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng and members of his executive council to make public declarations of their assets, which were later posted on the state government's website.

Yesterday, Chief Justice Tan Sri Ariffin Zakaria's also announced a move to weed of graft in the judiciary by requiring judges of higher courts to declare their assets with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

"TI-M has for many years repeatedly called for transparency and full public disclosure of assets of elected and public officials, towards improving the confidence of Malaysian citizens and foreign investors in integrity, accountability and good governance," TI-M chief Datuk Paul Low said in a statement today.

"TI-M also believes that for a full picture, liabilities, borrowings and debts of officials should also be disclosed," he added.

The MACC corporate communications unit said the declaration of assets would help strengthen the integrity of the country's judicial institution.

"MACC has always been ready to assist any public agency or private sector in its review and provide advice on systems and procedures to improve the integrity of the institution," it said, adding that a special task force has been set up to "identify appropriate mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring process of the declaration of assets by the judges".

Yesterday, Ariffin said judges had nothing to fear if their work was clean, and reminded them to uphold the independence of the Judiciary and reject interference of any kind.

Under Section 9 of the Judges Code of Ethics 2009, a judge shall declare in writing all his assets to the Chief Justice of the Federal Court upon his appointment or any time thereafter, if required so.

The move would affect judges in the Federal Court, the Court of Appeal and High Courts and judicial commissioners.

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