

**Pemandu: Nip graft in the bud**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: The fight against corruption needs to begin from the pre-school level if the problem of bribery is to be nipped in the bud, said Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu) NKRA anti-corruption director D. Ravindran.

"A study on 1,800 university students who are now at mid-management level, showed that a large number of them felt that it was all right to give and take a bribe when in position of power.

"It is very revealing and shows that we need to start from young. We also need to re-emphasise to society that corruption only stops when the giving stops," he said at a media briefing here yesterday.

On political financing, Ravindran said they wanted political parties to voluntarily self-regulate before laws are amended to ensure proper management of political donations and contributions.

"It will be fantastic if political parties can put their financing online as it will show full transparency.

"We want political parties to self-regulate when accepting donations and ensure that the donations are properly recorded. Donations must go straight into the party's account. There must be a proper audit trail and receipts," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said in February that new measures would be introduced to monitor political financing for all parties to prevent abuse.

On the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, he said it was becoming more critical for the commission to deliver its mandate with an Executive Transformation Commit-tee being set up to transform the commission.

The first phase, which focuses on human capital and operations, also includes studying the proposals by the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Teoh Beng Hock's death.

On giving prosecution powers to MACC, Ravindran said they have had discussions on it but it was up to the Attorney-General's Chambers to decide.

"We (Pemandu) want to change MACC's operation practices for the better and help them improve their anti-corruption rates," he said.

"There are five oversight committees that act as a check and balance mechanism for MACC. We want to emphasise to the public that the MACC is totally independent."

Ravindran also refuted claims that there was less effort to nab "big fishes", adding that it took a longer time to build a case against them as the culprits were more savvy.

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