

**Terengganu crisis reaffirms belief that political parties more corrupt than police, says Guan Eng**  
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**BY LOOI SUE-CHERN**

It is no surprise that political parties in Malaysia are now perceived to be more corrupt than the police, said the DAP.

It's secretary-general Lim Guan Eng (pic) said the latest political crisis in Terengganu had also raised questions of underhand tactics and dirty politics.

"No one believes that the three Terengganu Umno assemblymen quit because of their unhappiness over the former Terengganu Menteri Besar's (Datuk Seri Ahmad Said) daughter's wedding, which the prime minister today publicly promised that he would attend.

"Barisan Nasional (BN) must be reminded that if they continue to trivialise the climate of fraud, bribery and corruption that is presently at a rather dangerous trend, Malaysia will not be able to eliminate poverty and remain stuck in the middle-income trap," Lim said in a statement today.

Ahmad and the other two assemblymen – Ghazali Taib and Roslee Daud – quit Umno earlier this week but retracted their decision within 24 hours, after sparking a political crisis in Terengganu.

If they stuck to their decision, BN would have lost its majority in the state assembly.

The trio's move to quit Umno to be independent reps had raised questions among observers like the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (Bersih) and former New Straits Times group editor-in-chief Datuk A. Kadir Jasin.

"Kadir predicted that the trio would change their minds if the 'price is right'. His prediction was proven right," Lim said.

Lim, who is also Bagan MP and Penang chief minister, was commenting on the Malaysian Corruption Barometer (MCB) 2014 finding that political parties have overtaken the police as institutions perceived to be the most corrupt in Malaysia.

Of the 2,000 respondents surveyed, 45% of Malaysians perceived political parties to be the most corrupt, followed by the police (42%), public officials and civil servants (31%) and Parliament and legislature (23%).

In last year's Global Corruption Barometer, 78% of Malaysians perceived the police to be the most corrupt followed by political parties at 69% in Malaysia.

Lim said even Transparency International's Malaysian chapter had described this as most "unusual" and unique only to Malaysia as political parties in other countries are not perceived to be as corrupt as those here.

He said only 28% now believed that the government was effective in tackling corruption, the lowest in five years as compared to 31% last year.

"How serious corruption is in Malaysia can be seen when The Wall Street Journal and Transparency International declared Malaysia as the world champion of corruption with RM1.2 trillion of illicit funds outflow over 10 years from 2002 to 2011, as well as no action against wrongdoings and excessive spending exposed in the 2012 Auditor-General's Report involving RM6.5 billion.

"Clearly BN continues to turn a blind eye to corruption and even the appointment of Datuk Paul Low, a former president of Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), as Malaysia's first so-called governance and transparency minister, has not made any difference."

Lim blasted Low for not making any institutional changes to establish integrity and structural changes to combat corruption.

Low had rejected the DAP's call for renewal in fighting corruption by adopting these six steps of integrity, Lim said.

The six steps are:

1. Instituting public declaration of assets of the prime minister, ministers, chief minister and the executive council members vetted by an international accounting firm.
2. Implementing open competitive tenders.
3. Bar family members from involvement in government contracts.
4. Protect genuine whistleblowers.
5. Remove leaders with extravagant lifestyles.
6. Come clean on political donations. – May 15, 2014.

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