

**Gomez: Powerful Prime Minister cause of corruption**  
**Free Malaysia Today**  
**September 21, 2015**  
**By Shane Fuentes**

**The corruption phenomenon in the country, as evident in the Asian Currency Crisis of 1997/98 and the Financial Crisis of 2008, is unsustainable.**

KUALA LUMPUR: A prominent economist, citing the emergence of degenerative corruption in the country, said the Prime Minister had too much power and there must be devolution of such powers from his office to the relevant authorities below him.

If developmental corruption was unsustainable as evident during the 1997/98 Asian Currency Crisis and the Financial Crisis in 2008, Terence Gomez told a Public Forum in Petaling Jaya on Sunday, degenerative corruption was completely unsustainable. He noted that former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad attributed to the phenomenon, corruption, to the Prime Minister having too much power. "Who is responsible for this?"

Gomez was pointing out that Malaysia has since shifted from one form of corruption to another i.e. from developmental to degenerative. In the latter case, said the economist, there's no production because resources are simply given by the state to an individual and there's no return to the state. "Examples include the NFC and 1MDB scandals."

In developmental corruption, he added, the projects are eventually completed and there's even some re-investment at times. The projects in this category include the North-South Expressway, Bakun Dam, and Port Klang Free Trade Zone (PKFZ). "There was no transparency in these projects too, no accountability."

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Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2015/09/21/gomez-powerful-prime-minister-cause-of-corruption/>