

**ANTI-CORRUPTION SUMMIT 2018
“GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY
FOR SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS GROWTH”**

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY
Y.B. DATO' SERI MOHAMED AZMIN BIN ALI
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**GRAND MAHKOTA BALLROOM
HOTEL ISTANA KUALA LUMPUR
30 OCTOBER 2018**

YBhg. Datuk Seri Akhbar Satar,
Presiden Transparency International-Malaysia;

Tuan-Tuan dan Puan-Puan yang dihormati sekalian.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,
dan Salam Sejahtera.

1. Saya sungguh teruja dengan Sidang Kemuncak Anti-Rasuah 2018 yang dianjurkan oleh Transparency International-Malaysia. Saya yakin wacana hari ini akan meningkatkan kesedaran masyarakat tentang peri pentingnya tata kelola (*good governance*) dan budaya integriti.

2. Kerajaan Malaysia Baharu memberikan penekanan yang penting terhadap tata kelola dan integriti dalam pembangunan bangsa dan negara. Prinsip ini telah menjadi tonggak utama dasar pembangunan ekonomi yang terpahat di dalam Kajian Separuh Penggal Rancangan Malaysia ke-11.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. I would like to express my appreciation to Transparency International Malaysia for inviting me to share my views on this very pertinent subject. I must congratulate the organisers of this summit for bringing together policy makers, business community and civil society organisations to advocate good governance and foster a culture of integrity.

4. Our participation today, involving public and private sectors, is a manifestation of the Government's commitment to ensure that businesses are imbued with a great sense of integrity.

5. I am confident that most companies are already well equipped and capable of establishing policies, procedures and systems. Nevertheless, we need to go beyond mere legal and regulatory requirements and focus on creating a conducive environment to instill values of ethics and good governance, so as to establish a culture of integrity.

6. To my mind, there is no doubt that a culture of integrity is essential not just in the context of good governance but also in the greater framework of ensuring higher economic productivity. In this regard, we welcome the proposal from the National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC) to introduce legislation against economic sabotage. Such a move is in line with punitive measures against "Ali Baba" businesses, which go against government contract policies.

7. On our part, we are committed to empowering the private sector to ensure that world class standards and best practices are adopted among Malaysian businesses.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. The theme of the summit provides us with the opportunity to explore the importance of integrity and good governance in the public and private sectors.

9. We tend to take for granted that just because we are a parliamentary or representative democracy, we can do whatever we like as long as we have the requisite majority.

10. I believe that if good governance is what we aspire to, then we must not forget the minority who may not be able to galvanise the numbers to see their views through.

11. As Alexis de Tocqueville reminds us in his magnum opus *Democracy in America*, while public opinion is a powerful force, we must be vigilant against the tyranny of the majority, which tends to place its own interests above those in the minority. Good governance therefore warrants inclusive decision-making to ensure that no marginal groups are left out.

12. Good governance must also mean that the rule of law reigns supreme over the rule of men. Due process must be observed and checks and balance against abuse of power must be in place.

13. In this regard, the key institutional reforms introduced within the first hundred days of the new Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad are indeed significant.

14. In this short span of time, the Prime Minister has established the Special Cabinet Committee on Anti-Corruption (JKKMAR), which has among others implemented the declaration of assets by members of the administration and making the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and National Audit Department answerable to Parliament.

15. The Prime Minister has also reiterated during his tabling of the Mid-Term Review of the 11th Malaysia Plan the establishment of the Ombudsman to receive and investigate complaints of abuses by public officials.

16. This is a sea change in approach that will ensure a more effective and impartial management of public complaints, and no doubt represents a positive step towards accountability and integrity in governance.

17. Apart from governmental institutions, transparency and accountability being key requirements of good governance, must include the private sector and civil society organizations.

18. According to the assessment report of Transparency International Malaysia's Business Integrity Country Agenda (BICA), there are a number of issues that would need to be addressed before paving the way for the public sector to champion business integrity.

19. We have already begun the process of resolving some of the issues. For instance, the Corporate Liability Provision in the MACC Act 2009 will be implemented within the next 2 years. Furthermore, we will be doing away with direct negotiation practices for all government contracts and procurement – bringing in Zero-based Budgeting.

20. Indeed, more can be done. The main priority of my Ministry would be towards ensuring the creation of a vibrant and sustainable economy. The economic recalibration would focus on increasing the quality of life of the people, education, health and infrastructure.

21. While it is important to enhance growth, it is even more important that we boost the purchasing power of the people.

22. In this regard, I will need the support of the private sector. The health of the economy depends heavily on the health of the business industry.

23. All studies show that corruption leads to a diminished business climate and the erosion of public trust. In the long run, it reduces business credibility, sickens the business industry and causes financial loss to the nation.

24. The MACC revealed in January that the country had lost RM 10 billion annually - which was between 1 and 2% of the GDP, owing to corruption.

25. Today's summit has opened up robust debate on a myriad of issues that strike at the heart of the corruption discourse. It is hoped that the vigorous discussion on political financing, freedom of information, freedom and safety of whistle-blowers, and the need for more action from GLCs and private corporations will lead to more concrete deliverables going forward.

26. So, let us continue to track the implementation and progress of these key initiatives. Let us be mindful that good governance and business integrity demand full commitment and courage of conviction. Let us therefore go forward together with full resolve to achieve our aspirations for a better Malaysia, a New Malaysia.

27. The Government will continue to support the initiatives and efforts of Transparency International and enforcement agencies like MACC to promote and foster a culture of integrity.

Thank you.