

Integrity Initiatives by the Government and the Pledge from IEM

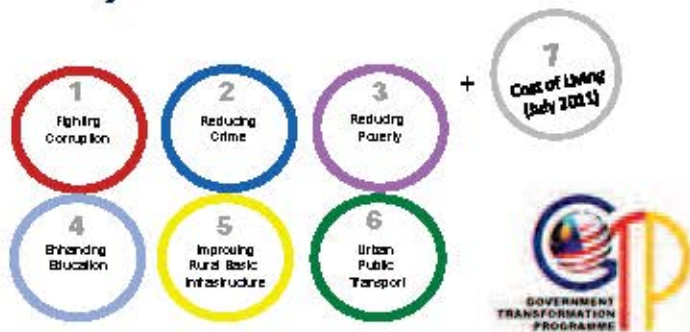
by Anti-Corruption NKRA, PEMANDU and Ir. Faw Yew Hin (Deputy Chairman of Mechanical Engineering Technical Division)

ON 29 March 2012, The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) has entered into another important chapter in promoting Professional Integrity and Ethics. In supporting of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) to cultivate a culture of integrity, IEM has entered into a pledge to promote professional integrity within the organisation and the engineering fraternity. The pledge, which was signed by Ir. Vincent Chen, the President of IEM was handed over to Y.Bhg. Senator Dato' Sri Idris Jala, the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and CEO of the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU).

In an effort to create integrity awareness within the engineering society, a regular column will now be created in our monthly bulletin – the *JURUTERA*. In this first article, we will share the information about the GTP and the Integrity Initiatives by the Government.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

7 NKRAs were introduced under the GTP to **FOCUS** on what the *rakyat* wants



Initiated in 2010, the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) was conceived to address areas which topped the list of causes of concern to the Malaysian public. Its aim was to address the key areas of concern whilst serving as a catalyst for the transformation of the nation into a developed, high-income country by year 2020. In addressing these concerns, the GTP centred on building a collaborative culture within the public service by getting civil servants more deeply involved in the planning stages of these key areas of concern known as the National Key Result Areas or NKRA. Within the aegis of the programme, measurable delivery goals and targets were assigned to various key ministries and agencies, a specific delivery chain created and a clear, unhampered reporting framework was set in motion.

These NKRA include Fighting Corruption, Reducing Crime, Improving Student Outcomes, Raising Living Standards of Low-Income Households, Improving Rural Basic Infrastructure, Improving Urban Public Transport and Addressing Cost of Living. The goals and targets set in place under the GTP are meant to be sustained over three horizons or periods of delivery till 2020. Thus, Horizon 1 started from 2010 till 2012, followed by Horizon 2 from 2012 till 2015, and Horizon 3 from 2015 till 2020.

ANTI-CORRUPTION NKRA

Cultivating a culture of integrity in society, be it in terms of business ethics, or social values and norms, has been identified as a key component of building a civil society which will reap the rewards of a high-income nation in a just, fair and equitable manner. For a society to thrive there must be trust in the government and community. The bedrock of any civil society is shared integrity and similarity of values. There are significant costs associated with corrupted business practices, with PEMUDAH estimating that Malaysia stands to lose as much as RM10 billion a year. With this ethos in mind, a range of initiatives were conceived and implemented under the Fighting Corruption NKRA. Three major areas were identified, namely, the regulatory and enforcement agencies, government procurement and grand corruption, which include political corruption. With all the achievements and successes under Horizon 1 of the GTP, it is now imperative to build upon them and continue with the upward trend in combating corruption. After conducting a process of review and analysis, as well as obtaining feedback from key stakeholders, GTP 2.0 identified three long term aspirations.

The aspirations under Horizon 2 of the GTP, otherwise known as GTP 2.0 are as follows:

- Firstly, to develop a credible, effective and reputable world-class Anti-Corruption Commission;
- Secondly, to enforce a zero-tolerance policy on corruption at all levels – from the highest levels of government to the rakyat on the ground; and
- Thirdly, to increase transparency and improvement of the handling of public funds by reducing or eliminating altogether the mismanagement of public funds. This will be done by ensuring a strict procedural requirement for all government procurement activities.

In order to identify the initiatives necessary to achieve these aspirations, four work streams were strategised under the Anti-Corruption NKRA in GTP 2.0:

- Enforcement Agency
- Grand Corruption,
- Government Procurement
- Education and Public Support.

GTP2.0: Anti-Corruption NKRA initiatives

| Enforcement Agency | Grand Corruption | Government Procurement |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Special Committee on Corruption to answer questions concerning MACC Annual Report in Parliament | 8. Complete prosecution of corruption cases within 1 year * | 11. Fast-tracking access to AG Performance Audit Report for immediate action |
| 2. Executive Review Committee in MACC | 9. Improve political financing governance framework * | 12. Action Committee on AG report |
| 3. Project Management Office on Prevention | 10. Insertion of Corporate Liability Provision into MACC Act | 13. Auditor General's online dashboard |
| 4. Monitor compliance unit activities * | | 14. Putrajaya Inquisition |
| 5. Monitor 'name and shame' * | | 15. Implementation of comprehensive integrity pact for PPP projects * |
| 6. Corporate Integrity System Malaysia (CISM) * | | 16. Upgrading MyProcurement and integration with related procurement portals * |
| 7. Streamline oversight committees | | 17. Guidelines for middlemen/lobbyist |

* GTP 1.0

Education and Public Support



- 18. Setting up of Corruption Prevention Secretariat in Teacher's Training College
- 19. Training of MPs
- 20. Incorporate anti-corruption element in textbooks in primary and secondary schools

The Government is fully aware that corruption remains one of the biggest threats to its ambition of being a high-income nation. However, the fight against corruption cannot be won overnight. Change at the policy level alone will not be sufficient. It will need a broader effort of cooperation to implement effective reforms to minimise opportunities for corruption. With all this in place, hopefully we can make major inroads in addressing this fight against corruption. ■