MALAYSIA’S PERFORMANCE IN GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER 2013

GOVERNANCE, SECURITY & SAFETY
Introduction

Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer is the only worldwide public opinion survey on views and experiences of corruption. It addresses people’s direct experiences with bribery and details their views on corruption in the main institutions in their countries. Significantly, the Barometer also provides insights into how willing and ready people are to act to stop corruption. The 2013 Global Corruption Barometer (8th Edition), reflects the responses of 114,270 people in 107 countries, and offers the greatest country coverage to date.

The Global Corruption Barometer asks for people’s views on corruption in their country generally, and in which institutions the problem of corruption is most severe. It also provides a measure of people’s experience of bribery in the past year across 8 different services. The survey asks people how effective they think the government has been in stopping corruption and also probes their willingness to get involved personally in the fight against corruption. For the first time, the 2013 Global Corruption Barometer also asks the general public about their perception on the importance of the influence of special interests and personal relationships in their country.

Findings of Global Corruption Barometer 2013

Malaysia’s GCB 2013 results are mixed, showing positive feedback in the public’s willingness to fight corruption while recording a fall in the perceived effectiveness of the government’s actions in fighting corruption.

With respect to the change in level of corruption in the last 2 years, 39% of the respondents believed that the level of corruption had increased, 47% said it stayed the same, and 14% put it as it had decreased. In 2011 survey, 37% of the respondents thought that the level of corruption had increased.
With the new wave of the public awareness on curbing corruption, the survey showed that 79% of the respondents would say, “YES” to report an incident of corruption. As much as 67% are willing to sign a petition asking government to do more to fight corruption, meanwhile 87% agreed that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption. Generally, the effectiveness of government’s actions in fighting corruption saw a decrease to 31% from 49% in 2011.

On a scale of 1 – 5, where 1 means not at all corrupt and 5 means extremely corrupt as a problem in public sector, the respondents put a 3.8 which leads to the perception that the police is still perceived to be the most corrupt (4.0/5.0), followed by political parties (3.8/5.0) and public officials/civil servants (3.3/5.0) and Parliament/Legislature (3.3/5.0).

The Barometer survey asked people if they had come into contact with identified service providers in Malaysia and for each of these services they have engaged and were asked if they had paid a bribe. 12% have paid the police; 8% in the judicial system and 3% in the education system.

Encouragingly, the percentage of respondents that paid a bribe remains relatively low at 3%. An overwhelming number believes the Rakyat can make a difference in fighting corruption. In addition, the majority of respondents are willing to participate in some forms of anti-corruption activity.
Highlights on Malaysia's Performance
Below is the feedback based on the 12 questions.

1) Over the past 2 years, how has the level of corruption in this country changed?

2) To what extent do you think that corruption is a problem in the public sector in this country? (1 – is not a problem at all; 5 – a serious problem)
3) In your dealings with the public sector, how important are personal contacts to get things done?

4) To what extent is this country's government run by a few big entities acting in their own best interests?
5) How effective do you think your government’s actions are in the fight against corruption?
6) Perceptions of corruption, by institution
a) % that think corrupt or extremely corrupt

[Diagram showing percentages for different institutions: Political Parties 18%, Parliament/Legislature 11%, Military 3%, NGOs 3%, Media 6%, Religious Bodies 2%, Business/Private Sector 10%, Education System 3%, Medical and Health 2%, Judiciary 9%, Public Officials/Civil Servants 12%, Police 20%]
b) Score scale 1-5, where 1 means not at all corrupt, 5 means extremely corrupt

7) Have you paid a bribe to any one of 8 services listed in the past 12 months?
   a) People that paid a bribe having said that they came into contact with the service.
b) % of people that came into contact with the service in each country

8) What was the most common reason for paying the bribe/bribes?
9) Can ordinary people make a difference in the fight against corruption?

10) Are you willing to get involved in the fight against corruption? (% of people that said that they were willing to do the following)
11) Reporting corruption. Would you report an incident of corruption?

- Yes: 79%
- No: 21%
a) Of those people that said "yes" they would report

b) Of those people that said "no" they would not report
12) Refusing to pay a bribe.
   a) Have you ever been asked to pay a bribe

   b) Of those people that said "yes" they have been asked, have you refused to pay a bribe?
Methodology

For the Global Corruption Barometer, approximately 1,000 people from 107 countries were surveyed between September 2012 and March 2013. Five hundred people were surveyed in countries with a population of less than 1,000,000. The survey sample in each country has been weighted to be nationally representative where possible. The survey questionnaire was translated into local languages and used for face to face, CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) or online interviews depending on the country context. The data has been checked and analysed at the Transparency International Secretariat in Berlin and verified by an independent analyst. The results presented in the report do not include ambiguous responses (don’t know/no answer). Global results are the un-weighted average across the 107 countries surveyed and any apparent small difference in the aggregated global results is due to rounding differences. In Malaysia, a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) survey method was conducted by TNS Malaysia of 1,000 members of the public covering 19% in urban and 81% in rural areas. The gender distribution is 52% male and 18% female.