

Graft root of Sabah's woes

Published on Daily Express: Thursday, May 08, 2025

By: David Thien

Kota Kinabalu: Sabah's public enemy number one is corruption as it is the reason so many things have gone wrong in the State, according to former Sabah Law Society head Datuk Roger Chin.

"We must make the people so upset, so angry about corruption that they will not tolerate it.

"Once you do away with corruption, things will work as it should be, and money will stay here. And opportunities would go where they should have gone because they are qualified and the best persons for the job etc," he said.

He was speaking at NGO Sabar's Kopitiam Council podcast with Datuk John Lo on the "Oversight & Reform of Government-Linked Companies (GLCs) Transparency, Accountability & Corruption Prevention. Why is Sabah struggling? Unpacking GLCs, corruption and lost billions," he said.

John, an ex-banker said people who have been put in trust have not been doing their proper job. I always feel we Sabahans are our biggest enemy."

He noted that some GLCs are putting in professional people to run them.

"They have professional management and good board members to perform very well," Lo said. "We have to reform."

"We must transform ourselves. We must transform our mindset to get Sabah going well again."

Chin said civil society, media and the public are the three bodies that must be strong and proactive to play a vital role in the fight to check and curb corruption.

"Civil society must continuously talk about corruption and what is happening out there, basically educating the public about corruption. So civil society plays a major function to educate the public what corruption is and they must keep going and talk about policies.

"So part of Sabar's efforts will be talking about policies and solutions which civil society is very good at.

"The media should continue to do investigative studies to make sure that issues of corruption are made known. Imagine the 1MDB issue, if the media was not on it, 1MDB may never even have been an issue.

"The media has this tremendous power to shape society, depending on what they write, they could influence popular views. I have always said the media is one of the most powerful institutions in the world.

"That is why it is also a duty for them (media) to educate the public to let the public know about what is corruption and expose corruption," said Chin.

He said the public must never allow corruption to be a normal thing. We must question our leaders.

"If a politician takes personal affront to it, that means they may have no answer to you. There is nothing wrong in questioning your leaders.

Chin said the public must not be ignored. "You have social media. You have WhatsApp where you can viral anything you want."

"You have the tool which was not available in the past and because of this, the public has got a tremendous amount of influence and ability to combat corruption."

Lo said Sabahan must also have faith in ourselves.

"If we do not have faith and confidence in ourselves as Sabahans, if we always think that other people are better, then we are not going to go anyway.

"We must know how to look after ourselves. That's why the Sabahan First Policy is very important.

"Instead of making other people rich, we should make ourselves rich. I hope to see many Sabahans become billionaires who will stay and invest their monies in Sabah," said Lo.

= END =

"Sabah Voices to Action - Shaping Sabah's Future Together" is a citizen-driven, non-partisan initiative running from March to June 2025, dedicated to amplifying Sabahans' voices, fostering meaningful discussions, and shaping policies on education, healthcare, public infrastructure, and good governance.

Join the Movement:

<https://www.sabar.org.my/action/#join-movement>

Podcast Channel:

<https://youtube.com/@kopitiamcouncil>

Contact and Follow Us:

Website: <https://sabar.org.my/action/>

Email: action@sabar.org.my

Facebook: facebook.com/sabar.org

Instagram: [@sabar.org.my](https://instagram.com/sabar.org.my)

TikTok: [@sabar.org.my](https://tiktok.com/@sabar.org.my)

Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive Sabah!

4 | Local

Graft root of Sabah's woes

David Thien

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's public enemy number one is corruption as it is the reason for so many things have gone wrong in the State, according to former Sabah Law Society head Datuk Roger Chin.

"We must make the people so upset, so angry about corruption that they will not tolerate it."

"Once you do away with corruption, things will work as it should be, and money will stay here. And opportunities would go where they should have gone because they are qualified and the best person for the job etc," he said.

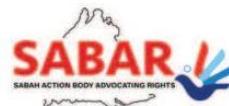
He was speaking at NGO Sabar's Kopitiam Council podcast with Datsuk John Lo on the "Oversight & Reform of Government-Linked Companies (GLCs) Transparency, Accountability & Corruption Prevention. Why is Sabah struggling? Unpacking GLCs, corruption and lost billions," he said.

John, an ex-banker said people who have been put in trust have not been doing their proper job. I always feel we Sabahans are our biggest enemy."

He noted that some GLCs are putting in professional people to run them.

"They have professional management and good board members to perform very well," Lo said. "We have to reform."

"We must transform ourselves. We must transform our mindset to get Sabah



Kopitiam Council

going well again."

Chin said civil society, media and the public are the three bodies that must be strong and proactive to play a vital role in the fight to check and curb corruption.

"We society and community talk about corruption and what is happening out there, basically educating the public about corruption. So civil society plays a major function to educate the public what corruption is and they must keep going and talk about policies."

"So part of Sabar's efforts will be talking about policies and solutions which civil society is very good at."

"The media should continue to do investigative studies to make sure that issues of corruption are made known. On the iMDB issue, if the media was not on it, iMDB may never even have been an issue."

"The media has this tremendous power to shape society, depending on what they write, they could influence popular views. I have always said the media is one of the most powerful institutions in the world."



Kopitiam Council

Chin (second left) and Lo (second right) during that podcast session.



"That is why it is also a duty for them (media) to educate the public to let the public know about what is corruption and expose corruption," said Chin.

He said the public must never allow corruption to be a normal thing. We must question our leaders.

"If a politician takes personal affront to it, that means they may have no answer to you. There is nothing wrong in questioning your leaders."

Chin said the public must not be ignored. "You have social media. You have WhatsApp where you can viral anything you want."

"You have the tool which was not available in the past and because of this, the

public has got a tremendous amount of influence and ability to combat corruption."

Lo said Sabahan must also have faith in ourselves.

"If we do not have faith and confidence in ourselves as Sabahans, if we always think that other people are better, then we are not going to go anywhere."

"We must know how to look after ourselves. That's why the Sabahan First Policy is very important."

"Instead of making other people rich, we should make ourselves rich. I hope to see many Sabahans become billionaires who will stay and invest their monies in Sabah," said Lo.



Dr Joachim (seated centre) with the newly-appointed councillors.

Over 10,000 high-profile jobs on offer at carnival

KUALA LUMPUR: Over 10,000 high-profile job opportunities will be offered at the MYFutureJobs 2025 Premium Carnival, organised by the Social Security Organisation (Perkeso), which will be held this weekend at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

In a statement yesterday, Perkeso said the two-day carnival will feature leading companies, offering over 70 percent executive-level positions, making it a strategic

Councillors urged to uphold integrity

PUTATAN: Local authorities form the

He said the local authority's expanded

tions to Putatan's development, with Dr.

dailyexpress

KDN fast-tracks ID issuance for students

POT DICKSON: The Home Ministry (KDN) has resolved the issue of identification documents for 6,903 of the 12,101 students in mainstream education nationwide, thus far.

Its Minister, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution said the ministry always collaborated with the Ministry of Education and the National Registration Department regarding the matter and expects to resolve the remaining issues by June.

"Our policy is clear, we will make it easier for them to obtain identification documents. They were born here and sometimes, they are children in care centres, adopted children and so on. Regardless of their status, the ministry's commitment is to assist them in line with the spirit of Malaysia Madani," he said.

"We need to make sure the ministry's commitment to helping them after they have completed all vetting processes...

They have been waiting a long time (to obtain identity cards) due to various constraints," he told reporters after presenting an identity card (MyKad) to Nurul Arini Abdullah, 18, here Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Saifuddin Nasution said that of the 12,101 cases, Sabah had the highest number of applications for identity cards involving 6,997 students, while Perlis had the lowest with 50 applications. He said the ministry is always committed to resolving citizenship issues, including plans to amend the Citizenship Rules 1964 soon to improve related matters.

He was previously reported to have given an assurance that the ministry would resolve the issue of identification documents involving students in the country within six to 12 months, in collaboration with the MOH and relevant agencies.

Earlier, apart from handing over the MyKad to Nurul Arini, who is also an outstanding student who obtained A's in the 2024 Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination, Saifuddin Nasution also presented her with a laptop, a printer and free wifi facilities for two years at her home.

Travel insurance plans

"I received Nurul Arini's application last December and the ministry's secre-