

## **RESPONSES TO LIST OF QUESTIONS FROM THE MALAY MAIL ONLINE**

### **1. What was the home ministry's reply on the missing police assets which could not be included in time for the report's publication? Why does the IGP have different statistics on missing assets and action taken?**

The latest feedback from Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) dated 5 August 2013 to Federal Treasury which could not be included in time in our Audit Report mainly highlighted that the Special Panel to Investigate the Missing Assets has held a meeting on 9 July 2013 to discuss all the issues regarding the missing assets and actions to be taken among others:

- Setting up of the Investigation Committee without delay;
- All the records keeping regarding assets to be based on the records kept by Commission of Enquiry unit (a unit in Assets Division, PDRM);
- Directive issued to all related contingent offices to collect compensation/surcharge imposed on personal police who are responsible for the missing assets due to negligence; and
- Provide safe and suitable place for keeping assets to prevent missing of assets.

The Accounts and Finance Management Committee also held a meeting on 31 July 2013 to discuss all the issues regarding the missing assets and actions to be taken among others:

- Periodic inspection of assets to be done;
- Disciplinary actions to be taken on police personnel who failed to comply orders and regulations; and
- Directive given to ensure no delay in reporting missing of assets.

In respect of the discrepancy between statistics as reported in the audit report with the IGP statements, all the statistics mentioned in the Audit Report were given and confirmed by PDRM. There is no dispute regarding these statistics.

### **2. You have been serving as an Auditor-General since 2006, you are in your fifth term now, what are the changes in the government/civil servants you have observed due to the scrutiny by your department? Have they taken bigger steps to improve themselves and what are the examples?**

Over the years, I noticed that the preparation of the financial statements and compliance with financial management procedures under the Accountability Index (AI) have made a good progress. Only a few agencies received adverse audit certificates on the financial statements. Based on the AI ratings, the number of

auditees obtaining 4-star (excellent marks) has remarkably increased from 10 ministries, departments or agencies in 2007 to 131 recipients this year.

In respect of Performance Audits, it is very difficult to say there is much progress in the area of the Government programmes/activities/projects as irregularities and weaknesses continued to be highlighted in the Audit Report every year. It is crucial for the department and agency heads to look into the competencies of the personnel handling public moneys. Firmer and faster actions should also be taken to deter the wrong doers. The personnel themselves should do their work more carefully and diligently to ensure no leakages occurred. There should also be better communication and coordination among the Government departments and agencies.

**3. Why are there repeated weaknesses and wastages year after year in the audit reports, as pointed out by MACC's Consultation and Corruption Prevention Panel (CCPP)? (Some of it is due to poor planning and poor management e.g. the RM750,000 jetty facility that was torn down and rebuilt, buildings or equipment left idle or under-utilised, Customs' shoes that were unusable after not being distributed for a long time). How can that be fixed or reduced?**

In our view, the way forward in alleviating the recurring issues in our Audit Report is to address the basic issues of Attitude, Knowledge and Skill as well as Integrity of Government servants who managed Government programmes, activities and projects for example they have to be more competent, efficient and diligent in enforcing contracts, in supervising contractors and consultants, in ensuring the best deal in government procurements, in having better coordination among Government departments and agencies, etc.

With respect to our recommendations, it is left to the department/agency heads to act on them expeditiously. They should be proactive in initiating the necessary corrective or punitive actions as expected of them by the public.

**4. The federal opposition Pakatan Rakyat has said the inefficiency or mismanagement is institutionalised and there needs to be systemic reforms. How do we get there and what is the A-G's office's role in this?**

Since it is a political statement, I do not wish to comment beyond saying that we will remain steadfast in our role as an independent and professional institution.

**5. What are the key limitations or obstacles faced by the National Audit Department?**

Generally, we do not face any major obstacles and our auditees have been very cooperative. However, as has been practised internationally, our auditing is done on a sampling basis and therefore it does not represent a complete picture of the public delivery system. But our audit findings can and should be used as a guide for government servants to improve generally their work performance and productivity.

**6. Will you take up your post again if your term which expires in 2015 gets renewed?**

I do not wish to comment as this is a hypothetical question.

**7. What is the status of Pemandu's four recommendations: Action Committee, A-G's Online Dashboard, tabling of A-G report three times a year, Putrajaya Inquisition?**

So far three of PEMANDU's recommendations have been implemented:

- i. The AG's Performance Report Series I and II have been tabled recently and the third series of the reports together with the Financial Statement Audits is scheduled to be tabled at the next session of the Dewan Rakyat.
- ii. The Action Committee have already met twice to deliberate on issues arising from our report.
- iii. The AG's Online Dashboard is fully operational since the tabling of the Audit Report. As of today, more than 21,000 visitors have accessed it.

The last recommendation pertaining to Putrajaya Inquisition will only be conducted as and when the need arises.

**8. Are you still on the MRT project's procurement committee? What are your experiences while serving on the committee?**

We are not in the MRT Project Procurement Committee but in the Executive Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Government. As we have been appointed as the project auditor, we will monitor the project closely until its completion.