

Easier now to report cases of corruption

The Government is reviewing Singapore's laws on corruption and will increase the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau's (CPIB) manpower by more than 20 per cent, as part of efforts to keep corruption at bay.

A one-stop Corruption Reporting Centre will also be set up to make it easier for members of the public to report cases of corruption.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong revealed these measures yesterday as he addressed 600 public servants about maintaining integrity in the public service.

He said public servants have been able to do good work for the country because of the trust Singaporeans have placed in the public service.

To maintain this trust, he added, it is important for the public service to uphold its policy of zero tolerance for corruption.

Mr Lee said: "If any of you do something wrong and breach that trust, you not only let down the public service and yourself, but you are also letting Singaporeans down and you can do a lot of damage."

Singapore was a "shining exception" in the world, where corruption is a problem in many

countries, said Mr Lee, but the country must never take this for granted.

Recent high-profile cases of corruption, such as the sex-for-contracts cases involving law enforcement officers as well as the misappropriation of funds by a CPIB branch head, for example, could have affected Singapore's ranking in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions index, he said.

Singapore fell two spots to seventh spot this year.

"These cases hurt our reputation – they hurt our reputation with Singaporeans, they hurt our reputation internationally," said Mr Lee.

He added that it was a disservice to the many exemplary officers who had done their part in keeping the public service corruption-free.

But he said public servants should not be demoralised when cases do surface. Singapore should instead be resolved to punish the culprits and remedy the weaknesses in the system.

"This level of trust that the Singapore public service enjoys, and this degree of cleanliness in the public service is a most unnatural state of affairs. So, work doubly hard to maintain the trust you've earned," Mr Lee said.

Source: The New Paper © Singapore Press Holdings Limited.
Permission required for reproduction.