Singapore

Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau

1. History
The Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) is an independent body which investigates and aims to prevent corruption in the public and private sectors in Singapore. Established in 1952, it derives its powers of investigation from the Prevention of Corruption Act (Chapter 241). The bureau is headed by a director who is directly responsible to the Prime Minister.

The bureau is responsible for safeguarding the integrity of the public service and encouraging corruption-free transactions in the private sector. It is also charged with the responsibility of checking on malpractices by public officers and reporting such cases to the appropriate government departments and public bodies for disciplinary action. Although the primary function of the bureau is to investigate corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act, it is empowered to investigate any other seizable offence under any written law which is disclosed in the course of a corruption investigation.

Besides bringing corruption offenders to book, the bureau carries out corruption prevention by reviewing the work methods and procedures of corruption-prone departments and public bodies to identify administrative weaknesses in the existing systems which could facilitate corruption and malpractices, and recommends remedial and prevention measures to the heads of departments concerned. Also in this regard, officers of the bureau regularly conduct lectures and seminars to educate public officers, especially those who come into contact with the public, on the pitfalls of and the avoidance of corruption.

2. Structure
Appointment of Director and officers

(1) The President may appoint an officer to be the Director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau.

Provided that the President acting in his discretion may refuse to appoint or revoke the appointment of the Director if he does not concur with the advice or recommendation of the Cabinet or a Minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet.

(2) The President may appoint a Deputy Director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau and such number of assistant directors and special investigators
of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau as he may think fit.

(3) Any powers conferred on and duties to be performed by the Director under this Act may, subject to the orders and directions of the Director, be exercised or performed by the Deputy Director or an assistant director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau.

(4) The Deputy Director and an assistant director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau may exercise the powers conferred by this Act on a special investigator.

(5) The President may create such different grades for assistant directors and special investigators as he may think fit.

Director and officers deemed to be public servants.

Establishment of Occupational Superannuation Scheme

3. Function
Persisting in its Mission Statement, to combat corruption through swift and sure, firm but fair action, aiming at attaining status as a top-flight investigative agency, thus vindicating our claim as a "crack investigative agency" by 2010, and implementing its Core Values, Teamwork, Result-Orientedness, Devotion to duty & Daring, Impartiality & Innovativeness, Tenacity of purpose, the functions of the CPIB are:
to receive and investigate complaints alleging corrupt practice
to investigate malpractices and misconduct by public officers with an undertone of corruption; and
to prevent corruption by examining the practices and procedures in the public service to minimize opportunities for corrupt practices.

4. Achievement
After Independence in 1965, the new political leaders took it upon themselves to set good examples for public officers to follow.
The anti corruption law was reviewed regularly to ensure that offenders do not escape legal punishment and that corruption does not pay.
Today, Singapore is a nation where syndicated corruption is rare and corruption in the public service is generally petty in nature. This is due to the following factors:
The political will of leaders who are fully committed in their fight against corruption;
Singapore's anti-corruption laws are adequate and provide sufficient punishment to deter corruption; and
The organization charged with the investigation of corruption is given a free hand to act against the corrupt irrespective of their social status, political affiliation, color or creed.
5. Contact
Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB)
The Republic of Singapore
2 Lengkok Bahru
Singapore 159047
Tel: +65-64900400
Fax: +65-62700320
E-mail: soh_kee_hean@cpib.gov.sg

6. Resources
http://www.cpib.gov.sg/