

# CPIB's e-book on graft and what goes on under the table

Targeted at teens, it features cases to raise awareness about corruption and its impact

Jean Iau

The e-book is catered specifically to those aged between 13 and 19. The Corruption Casebook – Stories From Under The Table is available for download on the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau's (CPIB) website at [cpib.gov.sg](http://cpib.gov.sg).

It comes after a Republic Polytechnic survey this year showed only 34 per cent, in a poll of about 1,000 people aged between 15 and 25, had come across the topic of corruption in school.

Close to three-quarters of them, or about 72 per cent, were also not aware of the existence of the CPIB, which was formed in 1952 and is an

agency under the Prime Minister's Office.

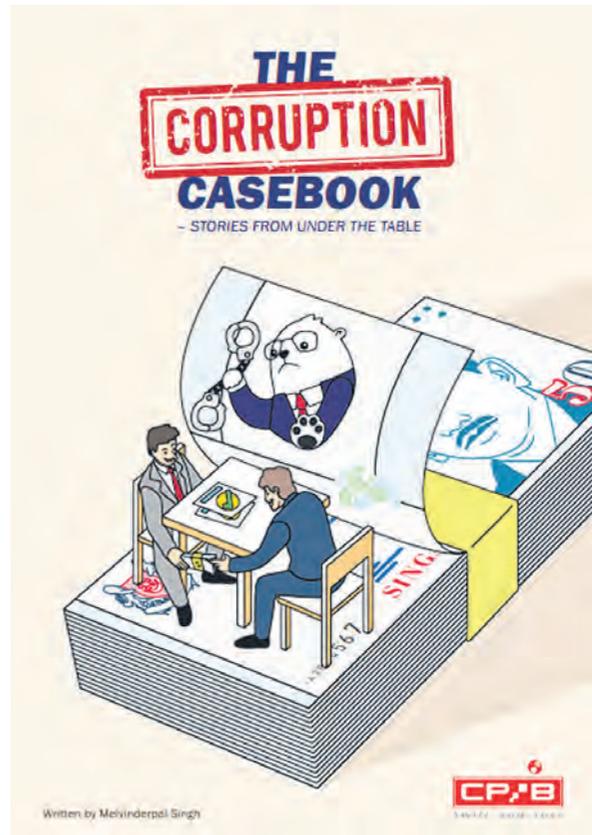
Ms Clare Tan, the CPIB's senior deputy director for planning, research and corporate relations, said the lack of visible corruption in Singapore today means young people are now less aware of the harm bribes can cause.

"Singapore is in this state where we are clean and incorruptible and there's zero tolerance, but actually then (young people) may become complacent because they live in an era where everything is nice, so you don't really see corruption.

"There is corruption, it's just that they don't see it."

While the cases may not be as visible, the consequences of the bribes can directly impact people.

For instance, bribes paid for le-



niency when checking for mosquito breeding sites are especially insidious in a year that has seen the dengue death toll hit a record high of 29 amid Singapore's largest outbreak.

In producing the book, the bureau consulted students from St Joseph's Institution to find out

which cases would best appeal to the target audience.

It also engaged Mr Melvinderpal Singh, a copy editor with The Straits Times, to write the book.

Mr Singh, 53, said he was motivated to get involved after realising his three sons – aged 15 to 19 – did not know much about the ef-

The e-book is catered specifically to those aged between 13 and 19. A lack of awareness among the young prompted Singapore's graft busters to produce the book, to help young people be more aware of graft and its pitfalls.

PHOTO: CPIB

forts of those who made Singapore the honest and transparent country it is today.

"They knew little of Singapore's history and the work, often behind the scenes, of our soldiers, cops and other law enforcement officers," he said.

"In teaching my boys about the dangers of drugs – no such things as soft drugs – and corruption – yes, even \$1 is corruption – I realised my boys may not be the exception. So when the idea for an anti-corruption book for young people was mooted, I jumped at the chance to contribute," he added.

The e-book features 16 curated cases of corruption, split up into six chapters that demonstrate how corruption affects areas such as national security, public health, and even the integrity of the sporting world.

It concludes: "While the impact of a bribe has direct bearing on the corrupt individuals and the reputation of the organisations implicated, it goes beyond that. There is an indirect impact on public funds, economic growth, quality of infrastructure and public services..."

"CPIB may be the graft busters but we all play a role in ensuring corruption is never allowed to sink its roots in Singapore. To fight this enemy, we need to first recognise it."

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