

Corruption remains firmly under control, says CPIB

Anti-graft body saw 358 reports in 2018, with 107 marked for probe – similar to 2017 figures

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The corruption situation in Singapore remains firmly under control, said the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) in a release of its 2018 statistics yesterday.

Last year, the bureau received 358 corruption-related reports, and 107 of these were registered for investigation, which means there was sufficient evidence for the CPIB to investigate.

The figures are similar to 2017, when there were 368 corruption-related reports, 103 of which were registered for investigation.

Overall, the number of reports and cases registered for investigation has been on a downward trend since 2015, when there were 475 such reports, with 132 cases registered for investigation.

A report is registered for investigation if it is deemed able to be pursued based on the specificity and quality of information provided. Reports that cannot be pursued are vague or unsubstantiated and do not provide sufficient leads to initiate an investigation.

“The CPIB takes a serious view of all reports and information that may disclose any offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act. They are thoroughly deliberated regardless of the nature of amount of gratifica-

tion, or whether the complainant is named or anonymous,” it said.

Under the law, the identity of the complainant is kept confidential.

In line with previous years, the majority of the corruption cases registered came from the private sector, with 88 per cent or 94 registered cases where individuals accepted, gave or offered bribes.

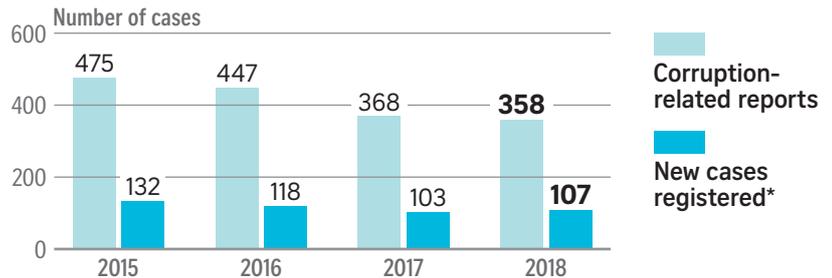
Of these, about 15 per cent involved public-sector employees rejecting bribes offered by those in the private sector, which could include areas such as the building and construction, food and beverage, and warehouse sectors.

Of the total number of registered cases last year, the proportion of public-sector cases remained low, said CPIB. Cases where public-sector employees accepted, gave or offered bribes made up 12 per cent of the total figure, with 13 cases.

Last year, a total of 112 people were prosecuted for offences investigated by the CPIB. Of the figure, 107 were from the private sector, with about 20 offenders from the construction sector. The CPIB also highlighted the construction and building maintenance work sectors as areas of concern.

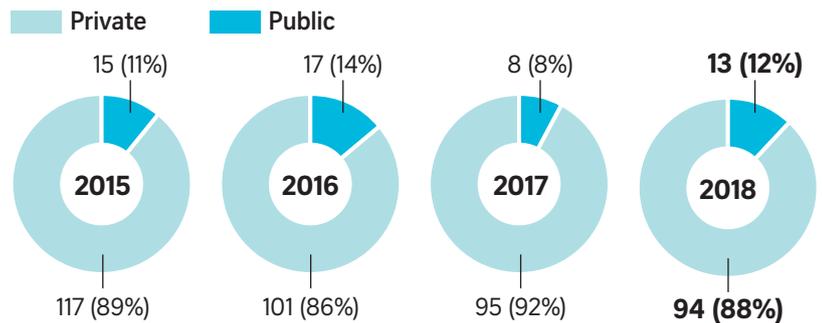
Last year, the CPIB completed investigations into 80 per cent of the individuals investigated. This figure has averaged at 81 per cent over the past five years. The annual con-

Downward trend

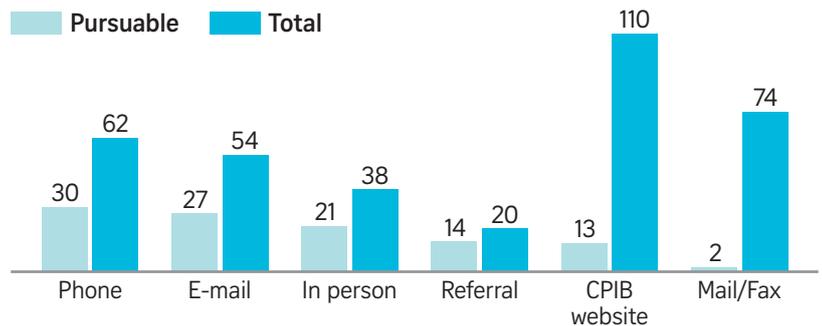


NOTE: *A report is registered for investigation if it is pursuable based on specificity and quality of information.

BREAKDOWN OF CASES REGISTERED BY SECTOR



MODE OF REPORTING FOR CASES IN 2018



Source: CORRUPT PRACTICES INVESTIGATION BUREAU STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

viction rate also averaged about 98 per cent over the same period.

Members of the public can report suspected acts of corruption to the CPIB through various channels, such as over the phone, e-mail or in person. Last year, the CPIB received 62 reports via phone calls, 54 reports via e-mail and 74 reports via mail or fax. The highest number of reports came through its website – 110 reports, with 13 of these cases registered for investigation. There were 20 cases referred from other agencies to the CPIB that resulted in 14 cases registered for investigation.

Last year, 38 reports were made in

person, where 21 cases or more than 55 per cent were registered for investigation, said the CPIB. Reports made in person are one of the most effective forms as the bureau is able to get more detailed information from the complainant, it said.

It added that overall, Singapore remains one of the world's least corrupt countries. The Republic ranked third, alongside Finland, Sweden and Switzerland, in the 2018 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index. Denmark came in first and New Zealand second.

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