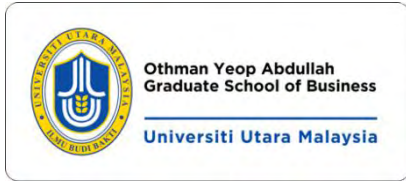**THE EFFECTS OF NATIONAL INTEGRITY POLICY, E-GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON THE PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION PRACTICES IN MALAYSIA: THE PERSPECTIVE OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS**

By

KHAIRUL ANUAR BIN CHE AZMI

Thesis Submitted to
Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business
Universiti Utara Malaysia
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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
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ABSTRACT

Corruption is a menace which has created unfavourable business environment in one country thus erodes the confidence to do business and to invest. In Malaysian context, it is claimed that the widespread of corruption practices is caused by the inadequacy in the system. This study examines the effects of the implementation of Malaysian National Integrity Policy (NIP), e-Government and legal framework on the corruption practices from the perspectives of legal practitioners. A total of 378 usable data were obtained from the legal practitioners practising in Penang, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Johor. The data were analysed using SPSS 22.0 and multiple regression analysis was performed to test the hypothesis relationships. The findings reveal that the legal practitioners perceived corruption practices in Malaysia as prevalent and the Government needs to be sincere, transparent and more proactive in executing the NIP, e-Government and legal framework. The results also show that the NIP, e-government and legal framework need to be more comprehensive in order to ensure that corruption can be stamped out. In general, the legal practitioners who participated in this study are generally skeptics and unsure of the Government's initiatives to fight corruption but believe that a more comprehensive and transparent efforts to fight corruptions via the NIP, legal framework and e-Government could have positive impact in curbing corruption practices. Hence, the Government's initiatives could be further improved, amended and improvised to ensure that corruption practices can be curbed. Although it is acknowledged that there are no anti-corruption measures that could fight corruption in totality, it is hoped that the more comprehensive, transparent and well-implemented NIP, e-Government and legal framework could reduce the likelihood of corrupt behaviours in Malaysia. Future research should fill in the gap by investigating other relevant factors such as religion, and goverment enforcement to fight corruption.

Keywords: corruption, National Integrity Policy, e-Government, legal framework in fighting corruption

ABSTRAK

Rasuah merupakan satu ancaman yang telah mewujudkan persekitaran perniagaan yang tidak menguntungkan dalam sebuah negara sekali gus menghakis keyakinan untuk menjalankan perniagaan dan melabur. Oleh sebab amalan rasuah ini dikatakan meluas disebabkan oleh kelemahan sistemik dan usaha kerajaan memerangi rasuah terutamanya dalam konteks Malaysia, kajian ini akan mengkaji kesan pelaksanaan Pelan Integriti Nasional (PIN), e-Kerajaan dan kerangka perundangan ke atas amalan rasuah dari kaca mata pengamal undang-undang. Sebanyak 378 data telah diperolehi daripada pengamal undang-undang yang beroperasi di Pulau Pinang, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Johor. Data dianalisis menggunakan SPSS 22.0 dan analisis regresi berganda untuk menguji hubungan terhadap semua hipotesis. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa pengamal undang-undang menganggap amalan rasuah di Malaysia masih berleluasa dan kerajaan perlu jujur, telus dan lebih proaktif dalam melaksanakan PIN, e-Kerajaan dan kerangka perundangan. Dapatan kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa PIN, e-Kerajaan dan kerangka perundangan perlu digubal secara lebih menyeluruh untuk memastikan bahawa rasuah boleh dihapuskan. Secara umum, pengamal undang-undang yang terlibat dalam kajian ini berasa ragu-ragu dan tidak pasti terhadap inisiatif kerajaan untuk memerangi rasuah namun mereka percaya bahawa inisiatif yang lebih menyeluruh dan usaha yang telus untuk memerangi rasuah melalui PIN, e-Kerajaan dan kerangka perundangan boleh memberikan kesan positif dalam membendung amalan rasuah. Oleh itu, inisiatif kerajaan perlu diperbaiki lagi, dipinda dan diubahsuai untuk memastikan amalan rasuah dapat dikurangkan. Walaupun diakui bahawa tiada langkah antirasuah yang boleh memerangi rasuah secara menyeluruh, namun adalah diharapkan inisiatif seperti PIN, e-Kerajaan dan kerangka perundangan yang lebih komprehensif, telus dan dilaksanakan dengan baik boleh mengurangkan kemungkinan berlakunya tingkah laku rasuah di Malaysia. Kajian selanjutnya perlu mengisi jurang kajian dengan mengkaji faktor lain yang berkaitan seperti agama dan penguatkuasaan kerajaan bagi memerangi rasuah.

Kata Kunci: rasuah, Pelan Integriti Nasional, e-Kerajaan, kerangka perundangan terhadap rasuah

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1MDB	1Malaysia Development Berhad
Act 694	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009
AG's Chamber	Attorney General's Chamber
AMLATFPUAA	Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001
BFM Radio	Business Radio Station
CeIO	Certified Integrity Officer
CIP	Corporate Integrity Pledge
CMS	Complaints Management Systems
CMV	Common Method Variance
CPI	Corruption Perceptions Index
CRM	Corruption Risk Management
EFA	Exploratory Factor Analysis
e-Government	Electronic Government
eSTK	Integrity Vetting System
e-Surveys	Electronic Surveys
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GST	Goods and Service Tax
GTP	Government Transformation Plan
ICRG	International Country Risk Guide
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
IIM	Malaysian Institute of Integrity
IMF	International Monetary Fund

KMO	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin
KPMG	Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler
LOMS	Land Office Modernization System
MACC	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission
MACC ACT 2009	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Act 2009
MARA	Majlis Amanah Rakyat
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MYEG	Malaysian Electronic-Government
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIP/PIN	National Integrity Plan/Pelan Integriti Nasional
NKPI	National Key Performance Indicators
NKRA	National Key Result Areas
OLS	Ordinary Least Square
PEMANDU	Performance Management and Delivery Unit
PEMUDAH	Special Task Force on Service Delivery
PM	Prime Minister
PWC	Price Waterhouse Coopers
PSD	Public Service Department of Malaysia
RM	Ringgit Malaysia
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
TI	Transparency International Organization
TI-M	Transparency International Malaysia
UiTM	Universiti Teknologi Mara
UK	United Kingdom
UMP	Universiti Malaysia Pahang
UN	United Nations

USA	United States of America
USM	Universiti Sains Malaysia
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
VIF	Variance Inflation Factor
WSJ	Wall Street Journal

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

Corruption is a serious epidemic that affects all countries in the world. There is no single country in the world which can claim that it is free from any corruption practices. Be it developed or developing nation, a lot of initiatives and plans have been put in place to fight and eradicate corruption from becoming a disease that can ruin their countries. According to Birney (2014), corruption is widely seen as a problem that a country will publicly prioritize and issued ambitious reforms to fight it. This is because corruption will be the menace of a country if the country is not able to control, prevent and eradicate it. It is no doubt that corruption weakens the national economy, tarnish the good name and image of a country as well as ruin the reputation of the government, leaders, business, companies, cultures and citizens in the said country. Corruption will also cause potential investors, be it local or foreign investors, to avoid from investing in the country hence, will adversely affect the economic prospect and viability of the country. Corruption practices erode the confidence to do business, to invest, create unfavourable business environment and discourage both local and foreign businessmen to set up or expand their business in the country. It is well established that bureaucracy and red tapes in doing business in a corrupt country will be a challenge to the businessman and investors. As argued by Wren-Lewis (2013), corruption is a major issue in most countries as it reduces growth and worsen productivity.

Andvig (2006) states that the bureaucratic complexity of starting a business, whether Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) or local start up and spin off companies, is always associated with the corruption indicator of a particular country. Such bureaucratic approach and corruption perception is likely to keep the FDI away. Consequently, the costs of doing

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