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In creating a proposal report for structuring the Malaysian Ombudsman (an Office meant to replace the Public Complaints Bureau, to be tasked with monitoring the resolution of public maladministration), C4 Center organised a roundtable discussion with other CSO representatives and academics to discuss novel proposals regarding the possible structure and functions of the Ombudsman in terms of their feasibility, efficacy and applicability within the Malaysian legal framework.

The creation of an Ombudsman office in Malaysia is a welcome addition to the overall framework of oversight mechanisms within the state, but must be done in a manner reflecting international best practice. C4 Center believes that the present Government has the opportunity to revolutionise administrative oversight in Malaysia with the introduction of the Ombudsman.

Thus, this roundtable discussion sought to create a space for collaboration and sharing of ideas regarding these proposals. The opinions and expertise of others working on issues of anti-corruption and governance were instrumental in fine-tuning these policy ideas and in addressing complications which could arise. Key areas which were explored include the intersection of the proposed Ombudsman with existing oversight mechanisms (e.g. the MACC, EAIC, and IPCC), the selection, appointment and removal process of Ombudsman members, and the functions, powers, and jurisdiction of the Ombudsman.
UPR Stakeholder Submissions for Malaysia’s 4th Cycle Review – Advocating for the Intersection of Corruption and Governance with Human Rights

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process is an important mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council, where each UN member state undergoes a peer review of its human rights records for the past 5 years. Malaysia’s 4th cycle review is scheduled to be conducted in early 2024, and in order to assist other member states in conducting the review, CSOs are allowed to submit their own reports providing a third-party account of the nation’s successes and failures in upholding fundamental human rights.

In July, C4 Center decided to fully utilise this avenue to seek accountability from the Malaysian government by submitting 2 stakeholder submissions on the intersections between corruption and governance and human rights – a sole submission focused on this issue, as well as a joint submission with the Coalition of Malaysian NGOs in the UPR Process (COMANGO). The topics addressed within the reports cover a wide range of topics: public service delivery and public procurement, whistleblower protection, independence of oversight institutions, and the right to information.

Together with COMANGO, C4 Center also attended a meeting with the Human Rights and Humanitarian Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) on 10th August 2023 to discuss the matters raised in the stakeholder reports. We trust that by engaging with government entities such as MOFA in a conciliatory manner (instead of taking an adversarial approach), CSOs will be able to build rapport and gain further ground in pushing for reforms to be passed.

While corruption and governance were scarcely addressed during Malaysia’s previous UPR cycle in 2018, C4 Center hopes that these topics will gain more attention during this cycle – after all, good governance strengthens the efficacy of the government’s measures to promote and uphold human rights (particularly economic and social rights), whereas corruption negatively impacts the same. In order to further promote these ideas, C4 Center (together with COMANGO) plans to engage closely with embassies and representatives of other UN member states on this matter in the coming months.
On August 23, 2023, C4 Center and the Bar Council, civil societies, and various NGOs held a discussion with international expert, Professor Fernando Casal Bétoa, to discuss incorporating core features paramount in a political funding bill into Malaysia's legislative context which is currently in Parliament's pipeline of a list of laws to be reviewed and debated in the fight against corruption in Malaysia.

Bertoa, Assistant Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom), presented “Strengthening Democracy: Dialogue on Political Financing and Legal Framework for Regulations of Political Parties” and highlighted the success stories of the countries with whom he had worked for the enactment of their countries' political funding laws.

The invited meeting attendees agreed that the government needs to increase transparency in various levels of government, especially when Malaysia is a representative democracy where funding favoured politicians is a tendency by supporters that believe in receiving advantages from their elected representatives, a culture of which may likely deny other groups of social groups equal treatment.

Following this meeting, methods to curb endemic corruption in Malaysia arrived at the urgent need to continue pushing for institutional reforms, transparency, integrity, and fairness into her burgeoning democratic processes.
28 August: Just Transition Dialogue: Asserting Communities’ Consideration by TrEES and EPSM at Hilton, PJ.

A one-day event organized by Treat Every Environment Special (TrEES) and the Environmental Protection Society of Malaysia (EPSM) at which C4 Center and various representatives from environmental NGOs such as SAM, WWF, SUARAM, and others gathered to discuss the perspectives and impacts of the Malaysian community on the current energy transition.

The discussion focused on how the global energy transitions have impacted numerous vulnerable communities, so a just transition must occur during the process. Learning from a project case shared by Dr. Vimala Vainy Pillai, lead researcher from TrEES, the communities’ considerations during the implementation of an energy transition, in this case, a solar panel project in Malaysia were not taken into account by the developer or any government authorities. Dr. Kamala stated that the majority of innovations do not consider ground-level insights and that there is a lack of pre-project and post-project engagements with the surrounding communities.

This results in a lack of transparency and public participation during a major development, despite large projects needing to incorporate these aspects into their planning processes in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), considering that they fall under prescribed activities as stated under the Environmental Quality Act 1974 Section 34A.

Through this, we learn that there is a lack of institutional arrangements regarding policy issues, as the energy transition is still so new to Malaysia, which has always been an oil and gas producer country. Malaysia’s implementation of Just Transition will have numerous shortcomings without thorough plans. Thus, it is essential for the government to create comprehensive policies on the energy transition and update current legislation to incorporate more transparency and strengthen accountability. A safety net should also be considered for the affected communities, such as providing related skill training to the new job practices so they do not fall behind during this crucial transition.

In conclusion, C4 Center looks forward to the Just Energy Transition that will be implemented in Malaysia in accordance with the aforementioned needs and recommendations.
On September 4, C4 Center attended a launch of Malaysia’s advisory and consulting panel on the climate change forum organized by NRECC, which was attended by over 200 guests representing stakeholders from the government, businesses, NGOs, and members of the public.

The NRECC’s current commitments announced by NRECC Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad during the launch are the drafting of the Climate Change Act, the National Carbon Policy, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Roadmap, the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR), to increase ecological forest, strengthen local communities, and enhance ranger programs, the commitment to keep 50% forest cover, and water security.

Malaysia has revised and increased our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to an unconditional target to cut carbon emissions against Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. And currently, our current greenhouse gas (GHG) emission in 2023 is 495.0 MT. We as a nation must take a holistic approach to meet this target, as it requires a complete mindset change from the government, society, and businesses to adopt new systems and create new value chains as we transition away from BAU economies. During the panel session on Achieving a Net Zero Future Through a Just Transition, Dato Sri Tai Hean Leng, Vice Chairman of the Sustainable Development, Climate Change Committee of the Federation of Malaysia Manufacturers, called for legislation to enable the implementation of carbon tax using ETS (Emission Trading System) for a specific sector such as steel, cement, chemicals, or energy, as possible immediate first steps.
Following a separate panel session that was focused on the topic of Natural Solutions Toward Mitigating Climate Change, C4 Center concurs with a statement made by Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Asma Ismail, Chairperson of the National Planetary Health Action Plan, during the second-panel session that Malaysia has fragmented governance that is slowing the process of mitigating climate change. To strive for better environmental governance, C4 Center also recommends the following to lessen the fragmentation mentioned:

- Conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to ensure any potential environmental, social, and economic impacts from implementing these policies, action plans, or roadmaps can be addressed or corrected before the plans take effect.
- To be multi-sectoral with involvement from all stakeholders, ministries, state governments, and local councils, with guidelines for uniform reporting and monitoring of environmental impacts.
- Capacity building and training for businesses to ensure compliance and submission of accurate information are essential components in the governance of environmental reporting.
- Carbon valuation in Malaysia requires further evaluation and re-examination.
- Existing policies and plans (RMK12) must be realigned to ensure development and projects move towards the common goal of climate change mitigation, and this must be implemented at all levels of government, federal and state.
- Transparency, access to data, and environmental impact reporting enhance good governance as they enable public participation in monitoring impacts and development projects in their respective neighborhoods. Transparency is compulsory to safeguard citizen's rights to a clean and safe environment.
On September 13, C4 Center was invited to attend NRECC’s "Sesi Bicara Naratif Ekonomi MADANI". At this event, NRECC outlined its current environmental issues and the ministry's vision for the coming years to combat the triple planetary crisis. Following that, a dialogue session was held between the NRECC's representatives, including its minister, to gather feedback from the attendees in which the context will assist in the inclusion of NRECC in the Malaysia 2024 Budget, which the Prime Minister will present in October 2023.

NRECC focuses on five primary objectives: energy transition, low-carbon development, environmental protection, preservation and conservation of biodiversity, and responsible mineral development. Nik Nazmi then stated that the NRECC intends to amend the outdated EQA 1974 by including more compounds and penalties and incorporating new environmental concerns that have never yet been addressed under any local legislation in Malaysia. The NRECC will also propose the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (EECA) as a crucial component of the zero-emissions objective. In addition, the National Mineral Policy will soon be finalised in regard to rare earth elements, and the NRECC is planning to work on the carbon credit regulations.

C4 Center believes that the Malaysian budget on the environment should include a transparent and easily accessible comprehensive plan, as the issues discussed by NRECC have a significant impact on communities, such as the energy transition, for which we should advocate for a just transition. Additionally, the government must investigate and reevaluate the contentious carbon trading and REE extraction. So that Malaysia can pursue sustainability without jeopardising our natural resources, these regulations must be made more stringent and supported by research evidence. Consequently, C4 Center will continue to monitor the development of NRECC’s mentioned commitments.
The National Centre for Governance, integrity and anti-corruption (GIACC), which is now incorporated into the MACC as the National Governance Planning Division, was initially tasked with monitoring the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP) 2019. The government has decided to review and rename the NACP to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). C4 Center, which was part of the consultative stakeholder sessions involved in the formation of the NACP, has been called again to contribute to a stakeholder meeting aimed at strategizing the anti-corruption plan moving forward.

C4 Center emphasized that the NACP was a well-thought-out and discussed policy strategy, and its intent and policies should continue under the new NACS initiative. The focus should remain on reforms and increasing transparency in the business of governments. C4 Center also provided input into areas needing immediate attention, including reforming the MACC, amending the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010, implementing asset declaration, and other institutional reforms.

14th & 15th September: Stakeholder meeting with MACC on the National Anti Corruption Strategy, Melaka

The National Centre for Governance, integrity and anti-corruption (GIACC), which is now incorporated into the MACC as the National Governance Planning Division, was initially tasked with monitoring the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP) 2019. The government has decided to review and rename the NACP to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). C4 Center, which was part of the consultative stakeholder sessions involved in the formation of the NACP, has been called again to contribute to a stakeholder meeting aimed at strategizing the anti-corruption plan moving forward.

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18 September: “Crafting the Future of Malaysia’s Public Procurement” Event

C4 Center in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organised the forum “Crafting the Future of Malaysia’s Public Procurement” on 18 September 2023. The primary aim of forum was to present C4’s Center’s Draft Policy Paper for the Malaysian Government Procurement Act and to collect feedback on how the final policy paper can be improved upon. The event gathered stakeholders from multiple sectors such as academics, members of civil society organisations, think tanks, government officials, and other professionals in the area of public procurement both locally and internationally to provide insight and suggestions into how the Malaysian Government Procurement Act might be constituted.

With procurement having long identified as being one of the main drivers of corruption in public sector corruption in Malaysia due to a series of legal and institutional pitfalls, the draft policy paper identified five key issues that need to be addressed in the drafting of a procurement act. A brief summary of the discussion of each identified issue is as follows:

- **Ministerial powers** – Ministers both at the levels of Federal Ministries and State governments have wide powers in deciding how procurements within their departments and agencies operate due to being the de facto financial authorities and are able to appoint members of procurement assessment boards. Government-linked companies, many of which are contracted to oversee procurements, are also subject to Ministerial power as many of them fall under the control of Ministries. This section additionally suggests that procurement board officers are rotated frequently, and that asset declaration laws are introduced both for procurement officers as well as ministers.

- **Punitive elements against procurement officers** – This section discusses the need for including punitive legal provisions in the proposed Procurement Act and ultimately takes a stance against a punitive approach to handling non-compliance to procurement procedure. It is argued that non-compliance is the result of organisational failures and a lack of institutional oversight, both internal and external, to proactively encourage compliance. Even in the case of intentional non-compliance, there are already existing laws and regulations that can be used instead of legislating yet another punitive law.

- **Information accessibility and transparency** – The ability to access information at all stages of tendering is key to ensuring that procurements are conducted in adherence to good governance and that corruption does not take place. Malaysia’s procurement system lacks transparency, seeing as information about tender awards and specifications are not made public, and the deliberations of procurement boards in making tender decisions are not published either. E-procurement systems are also inconsistently implemented with the categories of information wildly differing between each state e-procurement portal.
• **Grievance and remedy procedures** – Malaysia’s procurement system has little to no remedy systems in the event that a tenderer wishes to appeal a decision made by a tendering body. Existing options, such as by complaining to the Public Complaints Bureau or the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission are very limited in their application and are very situational. The option of judicial review is discussed but that, too, is limited in its application as it only investigates the exercise of power by public bodies based on procedure and not merit. It is strongly suggested that the procurement act establishes an independent body to review tender award decisions, such as a Public Procurement Tribunal.

• **Defence procurement** – The area of defence procurement is highly prone to corruption due to its reliance on secrecy based on the grounds of maintaining “national security” as well as the high-level of expertise and specific knowledge needed to appreciate the subject matter. The use of direct negotiation here is also especially rampant, and has led to many cases of grand corruption. It is recommended here that defence procurement should be placed under the oversight of a Special Ombudsman Office on Defence Procurement to assess government expenditure in this area, and that the proposed act should define the limits of national security being invoked to justify defence spending.
The presentation on the initial report findings was followed up by multiple panel sessions covering the different aspects and areas of possible reform for Malaysia’s procurement process. The additional panel sessions and subjects were:

- Session 2 – Discussion of C4 Center’s Draft Policy Paper for the Malaysian Government Procurement Act
- Session 3 – Challenges to Defence Procurement and Areas of Reform
- Session 4 – Transparency, Access to Information, and Procurement Technologies
- Session 5 – Review and Remedy: Seeking Justice for Flawed Tenders and Holding Public Servants Accountable

The numerous sessions resulted in input from all speakers spanning across issues from across the entire procurement process. Key inputs gained from these sessions will be incorporated into the final Policy Paper on Public Procurement or used to expand on existing discussions. Overall, this forum was instrumental in connecting the C4 Center team with subject matter experts for the purposes of expanding our own expertise, as well as being able to touch base with representatives from the Ministry of Finance to ascertain their own progress in drafting a Government Procurement Act. It is anticipated that the final Policy Paper on Public Procurement will be presented to the government and other interested stakeholders once completed.

**25 September: Meeting with Embassy of Switzerland to Discuss Avenues for Future Collaboration**

On 25th September, C4 Center was invited to the Embassy of Switzerland to meet with Deputy Head of Mission Ralph A. Stamm and Political Advisor Hugo Claus. The objective of this meeting was to explain the wide range of work that C4 Center does across various thematic focus areas, in order to explore potential avenues for collaboration moving forward. C4 Center is greatly appreciative of the interest which the Swiss Embassy has shown towards our efforts to promote anti-corruption and good governance in Malaysia, and we hope to be able to build a lasting working relationship with other nations in doing so as well.
25 September: Climate Change Advisory Panel Meeting and Appointment Ceremony by NRECC (Mesyuarat Panel Konsultansi Perubahan Iklim dan Majlis Penyerahan Watikah Pelantikan)

On September 25th, C4 Center was appointed as one of the Climate Change advisory panels by the NRECC. We are honoured to have been selected as part of a group of twenty-four other NGOs, CBOs, IPOs, and CSOs to gather holistic perspectives and inputs on climate change issues in relation to the creation of a climate change act that is slated to be tabled in 2025.

From this point forward, the panels are invited to participate in roundtable discussions and are responsible for the following:

1. To provide perspectives and input on climate change based on issues and requirements,
2. To propose new initiatives or partnerships to support the nation’s climate change agenda.
3. To assist in enhancing the efficacy of educational activities and public awareness to combat climate change
4. To serve as the mediator in establishing cooperation with various parties, including the community, the media, and the appropriate stakeholders.

This appointment marks an excellent step for C4 Center to contribute our views and principles to creating the crucial and long-awaited Climate Change Act as we strive for better environmental governance in Malaysia.
In 2023, Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) held a civil society organisation (CSO) discussion on community rights, climate justice and carbon markets in Kuching. C4 Center participated through our CEO, Mr Pushpan Murugiah, in this workshop.

This workshop, among others, discussed the various challenges posed by carbon markets, net zero targets and other false climate solutions at both the national and international levels, in particular within the context of their impacts on forests and community land rights.

C4 center contributed in terms of the discussion on potential corruption issues that will arise when implementing these initiatives and the need for a comprehensive governance structure that is transparent and provides for real climate justice.

Mr Pushpan was also invited as a panellist on a side-panel-session called “Tumpang Tanya” to discuss corruption in relation to climate justice.
6 August: Anti-corruption Training- Sahabat Alam Malaysia

C4 Center, an organization dedicated to combating corruption, was invited to conduct a one-day training for Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) staff members on matters related to corruption. The training aimed to equip environmental groups with the necessary knowledge and skills to identify and spot corruption within environmental issues and initiatives. With the recent surge of interest by individual states in Malaysia towards carbon storage and carbon trading policies, it has become crucial to scrutinize these developments closely.

The collaboration between C4 Center and SAM indicates a proactive response to this threat. By providing training to SAM staff members, C4 Center aims to create a network of individuals who are well-equipped to detect and report corruption within the environmental sector.

Corruption not only undermines the integrity of environmental initiatives but also poses a threat to the well-being of our planet. When funds intended for environmental projects are siphoned off through corruption, it hampers efforts to combat climate change and protect natural resources. Therefore, it is essential to have trained eyes that can identify signs of corruption and ensure that environmental initiatives are implemented with transparency and accountability.

The training conducted by C4 Center covered a wide range of topics related to corruption. Participants were educated on different types of corruption, such as bribery, conflict of interest, embezzlement, and nepotism.

As corruption evolves and seeps into new sectors, it is essential for organizations and individuals to stay vigilant. The training provided by C4 Center equips environmental groups with the necessary tools to identify and combat corruption within the environmental sector. By doing so, they contribute to the preservation of our environment and ensure that funds allocated to environmental initiatives are utilized for their intended purpose.

In conclusion, the one-day training conducted by C4 Center for Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) staff members highlights the growing threat of corruption within the environmental sector. With corruption evolving and infiltrating new sectors, it is crucial to have trained eyes that can detect and combat corrupt practices within environmental initiatives. The collaboration between C4 Center and SAM signifies a proactive approach to addressing this issue and working towards a more transparent and accountable environmental sector.

The training was conducted by our CEO, Mr Pushpan Murugiah.
22-24th August: “SLAPPED down? Speak Up!” Conference on strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP) 2023

From 22-24th August 2023, Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) organised a conference on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs), which brought together various activists and CSO representatives to learn about and discuss the ways in which SLAPPs are used to silence and harass public interest advocates across the world. The conference involves speakers from across the globe to speak about their personal and national experiences with these sorts of repressive measures, and how they have worked to push back against them.

CEO of C4 Center, Pushpan Murugiah was present to share our experience with SLAPPs as well, where a Letter of Demand was served upon the organisation after the publication of a press statement which was critical of an acting Minister at the time. Various discussions took place among the participants in seeking to come up with a strategy to combat the use of SLAPPs as a tool for repression against Malaysian activists. The beginnings of a loose anti-SLAPP coalition also were discussed, drawing from the experiences of the international speakers.
By exposing the intricate relationships and mechanisms through which corruption takes place, we can begin to dismantle this destructive ecosystem.

One of the key actors in this ecosystem is the political class. Politicians, driven by personal gain and power, often exploit their positions to siphon public funds for their own benefit. Their involvement in corrupt practices not only drains national coffers but also erodes public trust in government institutions. Unmasking these political actors is crucial for holding them accountable and breaking the cycle of corruption.

Moreover, government-linked companies, or entities owned or controlled by the state, play a significant role in facilitating grand corruption. These companies often serve as conduits for corrupt practices, allowing politicians to divert funds through complex financial transactions. Their involvement not only provides a veil of legitimacy to corrupt activities but also deepens the roots of corruption within the government itself.

To combat grand corruption effectively, we emphasized the need for stronger regulatory independence and mechanisms. Regulatory bodies, tasked with overseeing financial transactions and ensuring transparency, must be shielded from political interference. Strengthening their independence and giving them the necessary resources and powers to investigate and prosecute corrupt individuals will be key in dismantling the ecosystem of grand corruption.

In addition, legislative measures targeting political financing are crucial in curbing grand corruption. Political parties and candidates often rely on private donations to finance their campaigns, creating potential avenues for corruption. By enacting laws that regulate political financing, requiring transparency, and setting strict limits, we can reduce the influence of money in politics and minimize the opportunities for corrupt practices.

Measures to break the ecosystem of grand corruption must be comprehensive and multi-faceted. It requires a commitment from governments, civil society, and individuals alike to hold corrupt actors accountable, promote transparency, and strengthen regulatory mechanisms. By unmasking the political actors involved, emphasizing the need for stronger regulation and independent oversight, and enacting laws to regulate political financing, we can pave the way for a more transparent and accountable system.

It is crucial that we not only acknowledge the devastating impact of grand corruption but also take concrete steps towards combating it. By targeting the root causes and enacting comprehensive reforms, we can dismantle the ecosystem that allows corruption to thrive, and pave the way for a brighter future, built on transparency, accountability, and sustainable development.
On the 7th of September 2023, C4 Center was invited by the BAC Law Society to conduct a talk on the executive branch as well as give an introduction to the world of anti-corruption. The talk was titled “The Executive and the Control of the Government Ecosystem” and was presented by our CEO, Pushpan Murugiah. The content of the talk ranged from separation of powers, systemic corruption, power plays and many more.

The main purpose of this event was to engage with law students about their knowledge of corruption and anti-corruption as well as their understanding of how the executive branch plays a crucial role in combating corruption as well as to ignite the passion of upcoming law students to take a stand against corruption by learning the ways to push for laws and reforms!

The event was moderated by BAC Law Society’s President, William Tong and the speaker of the event was our CEO, Pushpan Murugiah. The students were engaged with the speaker and were having an active conversation about the presented topic. It was a successful event as the law students present were able to understand and get a glimpse of how important anti-corruption is.

As the event came to a close, a short sharing session was conducted by our speaker to gauge how the participants felt about it and the responses received were very encouraging. In short, the event was a resounding success!
As part of the mandatory 9-month pupillage period required for any person to be admitted as a qualified legal practitioner with the right of appearance in court, they must perform 14 days of legal aid services pursuant to Rule 10.06 of the Bar Council Rules and Rulings. C4 Center was engaged by the Selangor State Bar Committee and the Legal Aid Centre Selangor to receive 2 batches of 15 pupils each as part of their legal aid duties, and during their time with us, they were exposed to anti-corruption and good governance and the legal issues arising therefrom.

Every Wednesday for 14 weeks, the pupils underwent workshops on various topics relevant to C4 Center’s mandate, such as whistleblower protection, government procurement, political financing, and environmental governance. These sessions were generally conducted by the research officers in a conversational and informal manner, in order to stimulate open and free discussions on the nuances of these often complex issues. The pupils were tasked with conducting independent research to come up with solutions to some of the inadequacies in Malaysian laws which allow for the perpetration and perpetuation of corruption. They were also encouraged to voice out their own opinions and disagreements with any of the suggestions or ideas presented to them.

Both batches of pupils were also taken for a field visit to the Parliament in order to observe a parliamentary sitting in person. This presented them with the opportunity to see firsthand the way the Malaysian legislature functions, which would grant them a deeper understanding of the laws which form part of their day-to-day occupations.

It is C4 Center's hope that by providing this exposure to the pupils, they might be encouraged to pursue future careers focused on public interest issues – particularly legal reform.
Build My Town

29-30 July: AnyGames Con @ Jaya Shopping Center

C4 Center participated in a two-day Malaysia tabletop games conference, AnyGames Con from the 29th and 30th of July 2023, at Jaya Shopping Center. We promoted our card game, Build-My-Town which interested many individuals to approach our booth to better understand the mechanics behind our card game. The objective of the card game is to educate and bring awareness to the public on the roles of an MP of a constituency and a sneak peek of how they execute their duties when tabling a bill in Parliament. It would be a true test of their integrity as a player, as they would have to decide if they would remain a ‘Clean’ MP or a ‘Dirty’ MP by virtue of deciding which type of money they would use to build the facilities in their constituency.

On the 30th of July, our Acting CEO, Pushpan Murugiah gave a talk on ‘Changing Minds and Instituting Reforms Through Games’. The talk consisted of an introduction of our previous works as well as the reforms C4 Center advocates for. It was a fruitful and information packed session.

In short, the two-day event was a big success as we had more than 80 people approach our booth and 49 decks of our card game was sold. All in all it was a great event that allowed us to interact with the participants of this conference as well as introduced us to the world of the tabletop game community.
On the 24th of August 2023, C4 Center conducted a ‘Build My-Town’ play session at Monash University with Monash’s Political Awareness Club (MONPAC) titled “Build My-Town Go”. This was an interactive and intriguing event as it introduced university students to the roles of an MP and how they can better understand the reforms implemented in Parliament as well as reforms that should be brought up to Parliament. This event was held at a common room and was a great success!

The main purpose of this event was to engage with university students about their knowledge of corruption and anti-corruption as well as their understanding of what entails under the role of an MP and how they are able to table reforms through our card game. Essentially, this event provided a perfect opportunity for university students to gain interest in understanding reforms through a game and peak their interest in the anti-corruption nexus.

The event was moderated by MONPAC’s Vice President, Bryant and one of our research officers, Sangeetha gave a presentation on how beneficial Build My-Town is at creating awareness and curiosity about our political scene here in Malaysia. After the introduction came to a close, the play session commenced. There were a few facilitators from the MONPAC committee who assisted with guiding the teams. We had more than 25 participants for this event and it was a delightful and engaging time for everyone!

As the event came to a close, a short sharing session was conducted by our team to gauge how the participants felt about the game after playing it. The responses received were optimistic.

In short, the event was a resounding success. The event managed to introduce participants to the roles of an MP and create awareness on the power of reforms. We hope through this event, we have encouraged students to be more aware of the political nexus as well as the implementations of reforms here in Malaysia.
**26-27 August: BOXCON @ The Strand Mall Kota Damansara**

On the 26th to the 27th of August 2023, C4 Center was invited as an exhibitor to partake in Boardgame Odyssey Expo (BOXCON), a tabletop game conference consisting of local and international tabletop game organisations. We were there to promote our card game, Build My-Town. Amongst us, were tabletop game organisations such as Faculty of Fun (Nasi Lemak ‘The game’), Capital Gain Studio (Singapore 1889, Happy Dim Sum), etc.

This event was held at The Strand Mall, Kota Damansara. We had numerous people visit our booth during the two-day event. Many were left intrigued and curious about the card game and some provided positive feedback about the playability of the game. We had the privilege of having avid tabletop players as well as card game enthusiasts drop by our booth to give Build My-Town a try and the response was equally positive.

It was a delightful two-days of conducting play sessions and networking with other tabletop organisations.
**8-10 September: Sinar Harian (Rasuah Buster) Karnival**

From the 8th to the 10th of September 2023, C4 Center was invited by Rasuah Buster to Sinar Harian's event, ‘Karnival Sinar Bestari’. We were invited to promote our card game, ‘Build My-Town’ with the participants/audience of this carnival. It was a great opportunity as the overall demographic of the attendees of this event ranged from primary school students to secondary school students and teachers.

This gave us the opportunity to engage in conversation and introduce the topic of anti-corruption and the importance of the roles of MPs as well as the need to advocate for reforms. On the 9th and 10th of September, there were bigger crowds consisting of students, teachers, parents and the general public. We were able to engage in meaningful conversations as well as conduct play sessions with the visitors coming by our booth.

As the 3-day event came to an end, we were able to understand and gauge the understanding of students and the general public when it comes to anti-corruption and advocacy for reforms and network with the various organisations that were present during the event.
C4 Center was featured 27 times in the news media from July-September 2023.

C4 IN THE PRESS

MACC taking step in right direction, watchdogs say
October 2, 2023

Pertimbang pembiayaan awam parti politik jadi ketetapan dasar
September 22, 2023

AGC perlhu beri penjelasan, alasan DNAA kes Zahid – C4 Center
September 6, 2023

C4: “Why should MPs be remunerated for not performing their duties?”
September 6, 2023

Have law on appointment, involvement of MPs in GLCs, C4 tells govt
September 4, 2023

C4 Center officially appoints Pushpan Murugiah as CEO
August 29, 2023

Tak wajar Sanusi pegang 8 portfolio, kata C4

Inappropriate for Sanusi to hold 8 portfolios, says C4

MACC must probe Zahid over govt grant promises, says C4
Between the months of July to September, we have 31 additional new likes and 50 additional new followers on our Facebook page, bringing the total to 5910 likes and 6294 followers as of September 30.

Between the months of July to September, we had 84 additional new followers, bringing the total to Instagram 598 followers.

According to Twitter Analytics, between the months of July to September, we had 11,220 total amount of Tweet impressions, aka the number of times a tweet has been seen by any user, averaging 122 impressions per day over a period of 91 days. *

*Twitter, or X, is currently revamping their analytics page and there may be some missing or inaccurate data.