2017 ANNUAL REPORT
CENTER TO COMBAT CORRUPTION AND CRONYISM
OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES
STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD

The past year has been deeply testing.
C4 Center chalked up another eventful year with many new challenges to surmount, despite the murkiness of Malaysia’s muddled political landscape.

The 1MDB scandal remained the nation’s biggest bane. Court papers from Singapore and the United States reveals the outright theft of billions of dollars, spawning massive street protests in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

But this tale, once shaking Malaysia to its core, has now resulted in a messy state of affairs complicated by the strong likelihood of a late 2017 to early 2018 general elections.

Those seeking change are groping towards an awkward alliance. Former UMNO supremo Mahathir Mohamed now leads the opposition through his own reformist party, while Anwar Ibrahim remains in jail on the same trumped-up sodomy charge.

Amidst this political climate, we are witnessing a closing off of civic spaces. The work of anti-corruption and human rights advocacy just became more daunting, more difficult and more demanding.

It is no wonder that Malaysians are frustrated, while bearing a heavier financial burden.

The Panama Papers and the Paradise Papers have shown us the new dangers of open markets and a borderless world, and exposed the complicity of international banks and global financial institutions. Corruption can be stopped if they took fighting money laundering seriously.

Because of that, the thrust of C4 Center in 2017 was to think globally and intensify our actions locally.

Finding the truth behind 1MDB and other scandals has led us deeper into the intriguing world of cross-border corruption prevention. At the same time, we will not stop in our work to end the impunity of Najib and his cohorts in the pursuit of accountability at all levels.

Values of integrity and ethical governance that have now been usurped by the powers that be must be returned to its hallowed position.

We soldier on for the change that we see is necessary for Malaysia.

C4 Center Board
Malaysia’s Corruption Perception Index is steadily declining in score to 49/100, dropping to 55th rank from 50th in 2013.

According to Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer 2017:

- 62% of Malaysians think that the government is doing badly in fighting corruption.
- 59% of Malaysians think that the level of corruption has increased.
- 23% of Malaysians paid a bribe when accessing public services.

The number of MACC arrests in 2017 were reported to be 879 cases, declining despite 45 high profile cases recorded by C4 Center.

The World Bank’s Control of Corruption Index indicates a steady decline dropping to 61.5 percentile rank, from 67.3 in 2013.

**Open Data Barometer:**
In 2016, we scored 28 pts, ranking 53rd of 115 countries.

**Global Open Data Index:**
In 2016, we scored 10%, ranking 87th of 94 countries.
C4 CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

C4 Center’s Cynthia Gabriel receives the Democracy Award

In June, Cynthia Gabriel was honoured with the 2017 Democracy Award by the US National Endowment for Democracy (NED) for her courageous work to expose large scale corruption in Malaysia, in setting up C4 Center to provide a strong civil society voice in fighting corruption. The visit concluded many high level meetings at the Capitol Hill, the White House, and at the UN Headquarters. Global media, such as CNN, Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal, interviewed Cynthia on the 1MDB scandal and PM Najib’s role in it.

Kleptopoly launched and ready for sale!

C4 Center broke new ground through Kleptopoly: The Board Game as a innovative tool for advocacy for public education for asset recovery and asset declaration. Capturing public imagination, the level of response for the board game went beyond our expectations, helping C4 Center engage with youth and urban crowds as well as providing a supplementary source of income for our activism.

Elected to the board of UNCAC Coalition

C4 Center’s frontline expertise was recognised through our election to the coordination committee of the UNCAC Coalition, a global network of over 350 civil society organisations dedicated to upholding the UN Convention Against Corruption. We hold the East Asia, Central Asia and Pacific Regional Seat for two years.
IN ACTION: THE 2017 JOURNEY

1ST QUARTER
- Langkawi Fact Finding Mission
- UNCAC Second Cycle Country Review
- Program Sehati Sejiwa Memerangi Rasuah

3RD QUARTER
- GIAT Good Governance Agenda Launch
- Freedom of Information Roundtable with SUHAKAM
- “Official Secrets Act: Time to Review or Repeal?” Forum

2ND QUARTER
- 1MDB Report Launch
- Kleptocrazy Campaign & Website Launch
- Press Freedom Day with Journalists and Public

4TH QUARTER
- "It’s Raining Dedak at Elections" EC-MACC Report Launch
- International Anti-Corruption Day
- Kleptopoly’s “Live Clean or Die Dirty” at Art for Grabs
- Conference of State Parties on UNCAC
As one of our major thrusts, we believe that good governance requires a robust legal framework, political financing and donations, whether in the context of day-to-day governance or electoral offences. We launched two major reports and a coalition agenda underpinning these issues.

**Understanding Cross Border Corruption and Money Laundering: The 1MDB Chronicles Exposed**

In order to educate and clarify the complexity of the 1MDB scandal, we chronicled the events and actors in a single report, highlighting how 1MDB funds moved across the world to end up in the personal pockets of top Malaysian figures. The report was launched 1 April, received international attention and puts the spotlight on PM Najib Razak’s grand corruption.

**Report on the Roles and Functions of the EC and the MACC in Addressing Corrupt Practices at Elections**

During the last elections, the Election Commission (EC) and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) were quick to pass the buck on acting on corrupt practices during elections. The report gives clarification on the matter of jurisdiction: What does the law say about whose responsibility it is for enforcing electoral laws with regards to bribery and electoral malpractice? This report was launched 11 November and will be delivered to key agencies.

**GIAT Good Governance Agenda**

Together with other NGOs in the run up to the next general elections, this agenda was launched 19 July, presenting a list of demands to all political parties that we need reform in the following areas: asset declaration, political financing, access to information, civic participation and independent institutions.
THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI)

C4 Center also works towards the establishment of a federal FOI law, stronger whistleblower protection, educating the public of their right to know and encouraging the usage of this right.

SUHAKAM’s Round Table Discussion on Access to Information in Malaysia

This landmark invitational roundtable, jointly held by C4 Center and The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) on 4 August, intends to kickstart the process of drafting an Federal FOI law. 39 representatives, including various government agencies, discussed the implementation of Open Data, Access to Information, the reform of the Official Secrets Act and how a potential new FOI law would look like in Malaysia.

Community Level Talks

We held grassroot-level events in Selayang (4 April), in Bangi with 50 University Kebangsaan Malaysia undergraduates (22 April), and a forum titled, “OSA: Time to Repeal or Review?” (16 Aug). We also participated in an Article 19 consultation on FOI and Freedom of Expression, in preparation for the UDHR Review process.

An Evening with the Media on FOI & Investigative Journalism

One of the primary users of FOI laws are investigative journalists. The Northern Region office took the initiative to use gather journalists in conjunction with World Press Freedom Day (date) to talk about how a lack of access to information has impinged on their capacity as investigative journalists.

“Hak Anda Untuk Tahu” Educational Video

On 26 April, we released a 3-minute Malay-language video to boost awareness, especially amongst Malay speaking communities, that tax-paying Malaysians have a right to know how public funds are administered. The video was posted on our FB Page.
THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

NORTHERN OFFICE (PENANG)

Established in 2016, the C4 Center Northern Office specifically deals with local good governance issues and sustainable development.

In the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Northern Office continues to engage with local government in Penang such as councillors, state EXCO, MPs and MACC Penang. We raised issues of state engagement with civil society and pushing for true sustainable development especially in the light of the 21 Oct Tanjung Bungah landslide and the 5 November Georgetown flooding.

In January, the Northern Office was focused on a fact-finding mission on sustainable development and corruption in the tourist haven of Langkawi. Preliminary findings were discussed at a in Pangkor workshop in November 2017. We look to formally publishing a report of the findings in 2018.

Together with a strong journalist volunteer base, the Northern Office has been recruiting volunteers to increase media outreach and research capacity, and is looking to collaborate with regional MACC offices in 2018.

FOREST GOVERNANCE

Our forest governance programme that we started last year in collaboration with the MACC, focuses on the nexus between business and politics when Orang Asli land rights are encroached by logging companies and complicit state departments. Following two complaint clinics last year, we organised two more this year.

We continued our work on forest governance issues, and held very impactful outdoor (in the village) townhalls with the Orang Asli community bringing relevant agencies like the Forestry department, Orang Asli Affairs Department (JAKOA), the Land Office, with the cooperation of the MACC. In 2017 we headed to Pahang, Kuala Lipis and Negeri Sembilan. These rural community engagements, have been very rewarding experiences for the work of C4 Center.
CLOSING CIVIC SPACES

 Freedoms of expression are narrowing in traditional spaces. Corruption scandals have led to human rights violations: unlawful detaiments, suppression of peaceful protests, questioning of activists, and the use of the Sedition Act to silence critics. C4 Center is exploring alternative ways to engage with Malaysians for anti-corruption work.

Engaging Malaysian Publics with Kleptopoly: The Board Game

Kleptopoly is a board game designed by C4 Center to engage with youth and the broader public to introduce basic anti-corruption concepts. Based off Monopoly and inspired by the 1MDB scandal, it features mechanics where players are sent to jail if their properties are found to be corrupt—hence teaching players the value of asset declaration. Announced in October, a premium version with hand-casted miniatures is available on various platforms.

Naming and Shaming on Kleptocrazy.my

C4 Center takes advantage of digital spaces in the face of rising corruption to “name and shame” politicians and officials living in suspicious wealth. It allow citizens to submit photos or video evidence, while C4 Center moderates submissions to monitor for abuse, and we help interpret the auditor-general’s report for layperson’s use. We also keep a running database of MACC cases from the start of the new Chief Commissioner’s term. In support of the programme, we held two volunteer training sessions.

Enabling Accountability through the MyCleanCity Mobile App

MyCleanCity is an innovative mobile app, created by C4 Center with the objective of building accountability and transparency around governance and service delivery issues at the council level. Tied to the Petaling Jaya council complaints system, this community based app is meant to price open the black hole of poor service delivery, name and shame departments that fail to implement their duties efficiently, and build better collective community participation.
INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

C4 Center now plays a major role in engaging international actors in fighting corruption both at the regional and global level. Growing collusion from international financial institutions which enables graft and organised crime to happen requires us to take the fight to where it needs to be.

Speaking at the Conference of State Parties (COSP)

C4 Center participated from 2-7 November 2017 in our first COSP on the UN Anti-Corruption Convention (UNCAC), held every two years. Cynthia Gabriel was invited to speak on corruption, rising extremism and its links to organised crime, and contributed heavily to discussion on 1MDB and asset recovery concerns.

UNCAC Second Cycle Country Review

In June, C4 Center took the lead within the GIAT Coalition in engaging and providing input to UNCAC Country Reviewers from Timor Leste and Swaziland, who carried out Malaysia’s obligations to be reviewed once every five years. We initiated an NGO coordination meeting prior to meeting the reviewers at MACC offices. While we were pressured to remain solely within the ambit of Article 13 as civil society participation within UNCAC, we also gave substantive feedback on the prevention of corruption, (chapter 2), asset recovery (chapter 4), whistleblower protection and closing civic spaces, where an NGO law was being mooted to regulate us further.

Election to the Committee of UNCAC Coalition

Another milestone for C4 Center is the election to the coordination committee of the UNCAC Coalition, a global network of over 350 civil society organisations (CSOs) in over 100 countries promoting UNCAC. C4 Center now plays a role of area representative to advocate the issue of grand corruption and recovery of stolen assets at various events.

Recovering Illicit Gains from Switzerland

Another new initiative C4 Center is exploring is an Asset Recovery Initiative, which gathered endorsements from 111 other Malaysian NGOs. This initiative intends to persuade the Swiss government to put confiscated gains from laundered 1MDB money into an independent trust fund benefitting Malaysians. Further follow-up is expected in 2018.

C4 Center Recognised at International Forums

Because of our strong presence internationally, we were also invited to speak at various events internationally, including the USA, Austria, Taiwan, Thailand and Indonesia.
C4 CENTER IN THE NEWS

News Highlights in 2017: Click to view!

Malaysia PM Najib Razak, under cloud of 1MDB corruption scandal, to be invited to White House

Before emerging as a key figure in one of the world’s biggest corruption scandals, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak played golf with Donald Trump.

"To my favourite Prime Minister. Great win," the US President scribbled on a photograph of them together.

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia) - 12 September

Taipei Times (ROC) - 26 Oct

Why President Trump is bad for freedom ... in Malaysia

SCMP (Hong Kong) - 15 Jan

Inviting Malaysia’s prime minister to the White House is a terrible idea

By Cynthia Gabriel - September 8, 2017

Washington Post (United States) - 8 September

SEA Globe (Cambodia) - 8 November

For Malaysia, the fight against corruption is also a fight for democracy

By Cynthia Gabriel - August 16, 2017

Washington Post (United States) - 16 August
C4 CENTER IN FIGURES

83 Citations in the news

17 Events hosted or co-organised across Malaysia

33 Press Statements Issued

2 Reports Published

DONORS & OTHER INCOME

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<th>Source</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<td>National Endowment for Democracy</td>
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<td>Open Society Foundation</td>
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PROJECT & PROGRAMMES

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C4 CENTER STAFF IN 2017

Executive Director: Cynthia Gabriel
Fadiah Nadwa Fikri, Rahayu Mumaizani, Aizat Shamsuddin,
Farhana Baharin, Sean Ang, Ho Yi Jian;
Sudhagaran Stanley (Northern Office).
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OUR THANKS

For the period between 2016-2017, C4 Center continues to receive strong support from global and local donor agencies, as well as the Malaysian public, amounting to approximately 786,000 Ringgit.

Without the financial assistance from our donor partners and Malaysians dedicated to fighting corruption, we will not be able to have produced such outcomes and impacts for Malaysia.

We would like to thank our supporters, namely the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the Open Society Foundation (OSF), the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), American Bar Association (ABA), and Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia for their generous financial support.

We also give special thanks to the Attorney General’s Office of Malaysia, The Selangor State Government, The Penang State Government, the Institute of Integrity Malaysia and Majlis Perbandaran Petaling Jaya for their partnerships in delivering the impacts to the wider public.

Finally, all Malaysians have our gratitude for their financial and moral support.

OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS

THE CENTER TO COMBAT CORRUPTION AND CRONYISM

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