

I. NACP: an honest look at corruption



In response to calls for a more effective plan to address corruption, the National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP) was launched on January 29th, 2019 by the National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC) under the Prime Minister's Department (PMD). The goal of the NACP is to create a corruption-free society governed by the principles of integrity, accountability and transparency. The NACP serves as the primary anti-corruption policy framework for different government agencies and ministries so that they may develop their own Organisational Anti-Corruption Plan (OACP).

The NACP has identified six key corruption-prone risk areas; political governance, public sector administration, public procurement, legal and judicial, law enforcement, and corporate governance. Based on corruption trends from 2013 to 2018, the public sector was found to be more vulnerable to corruption with a vulnerability rate of 63.30%, compared to the private sector (17.06%). One reason cited is that due to weak governance in the public procurement system.

From 2013 to 2018 the MACC (as cited in the NACP, 2019) found that the procurement sector recorded the highest number of complaints (42.8%) received by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Since procurement makes up a large chunk of corruption complaints, the NACP has set forth Strategy 3 titled "Increasing the Efficiency and Transparency in Public Procurement" which contains 16 initiatives that attempt to address issues in the public procurement regime. Furthermore, there are other initiatives within other strategies that will help address the problems in procurement.

Hence, this brief paper will give an overview of the current procurement regime. Next, the paper will briefly look into cases of corruption, negligence, and non-compliance in procurement. This paper will provide a full list of Strategy 3's 16 initiatives and will attempt to evaluate a few select issues and initiatives within the strategy, alongside relevant initiatives from other Strategies. With reference to previous literature on public procurement in Malaysia, this paper will provide a general evaluation of those specific initiatives. This paper then provides recommendations to improve these initiatives.