THE ROLE AND INFLUENCE OF CORPORATE LEADER VALUES ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS AND FINANCIAL REPORTING QUALITY

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By

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#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BEIM	Business Ethics Institute of Malaysia
BMF	Bumiputra Malaysian Finance
BNM/GP1	Bank Negara Malaysia/Garis Panduan 1
BRC	Blue Ribbon Committee
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
EPF	Employees Provident Fund
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board
FRS	Financial Reporting Standards
GAAP	Generally Accepted Accounting Principle
GCB	Global Corruption Barometer
GLCs	Government Linked Companies
IIM	Institute of Malaysian Integrity
IPOs	Initial Public Offerings
ISIS	Institute of Strategic and International Studies
JPI/GP1	Jadual Panduan 1/Garis Panduan 1
KLSE	Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange
LTAT	Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera
LTH	Lembaga Tabung Haji
MACA	Malaysian Anti Corruption Academy
MASB	Malaysian Accounting Standard Board
MCCG	Malaysian Code of Corporate Governance
MD	Managing Director
MICG	Malaysian Institute of Corporate Governance
MICPA	Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountant
MSWG	Minority Shareholders Watchdog Group
NIP	National Integrity Plan
NYSE	New York Stock Exchange
PLCs	Public Listed Companies
PNB	Permodalan Nasional Berhad
SC	Securities Commission
SEC	Securities Exchange Commission
SGX	Singapore Exchange
SOCSO	National Social Security Organization of Malaysia
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
U.S.	United States

## PERANAN DAN PENGARUH NILAI PEMIMPIN KORPORAT TERHADAP MEKANISMA TADBIR URUS KORPORAT DAN KUALITI PELAPORAN KEWANGAN

#### ABSTRAK

Walaupun selepas dua puluh tahun sistem tadbir urus korporat dilaksanakan, skandal dan kegagalan korporat masih terus berlaku. Kebanyakan kajian empirikal menunjukkan penemuan yang tidak konsisten dan tidak menyakinkan mengenai kesan mekanisma tadbir urus korporat seperti ciri-ciri lembaga pengarah dan jawatankuasa audit serta struktur pemilikan terhadap kualiti pelaporan kewangan. Keberkesanan tadbir urus korporat ini juga dipengaruhi oleh faktor institusi yang dibentuk oleh sejarah dan konteks politik. Kebanyakan syarikat di negara yang sedang membangun termasuk Malaysia menunjukkan pemilikan tertumpu yang tinggi, campur tangan kerajaan dan pengaruh keluarga. Keadaan ini mendorong kepada ketelusan yang rendah, pendedahan yang tidak mencukupi dan rampasan pemegang saham minoriti disebabkan pemegang saham majoriti cenderung untuk memaksimumkan faedah peribadi mereka. Penguatkuasaan prinsip tadbir urus korporat yang diamalkan oleh syarikat-syarikat tidak mencerminkan kualiti pentadbir korporat yang mentadbir syarikat-syarikat tersebut. Dengan itu, adalah penting untuk mengkaji peranan nilai pemimpin korporat memandangkan sesebuah organisasi itu biasanya dibentuk oleh sikap, nilai dan visi pemimpin korporat. Visi, falsafah, hala tuju masa depan yang dikongsi bersama oleh Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif amat penting kepada syarikat dalam memastikan semua urusan pentadbiran dikendalikan dengan secekap dan seberkesan yang mungkin. Nilai-nilai

yang dipegang dan dikongsi oleh pemimpin akan membentuk tahap kualiti pelaporan syarikat. Oleh itu, kajian ini akan memenuhi kekosongan ini melalui pemeriksaan peranan dan pengaruh nilai pemimpin korporat terhadap mekanisma tadbir urus korporat dan sejauh mana pengurusan perolehan berlaku. Pelaporan kualiti 120 buah syarikat bukan kewangan yang tersenarai di Bursa Malaysia pada tahun 2010 telah diperiksa. Kajian ini menggunakan model Jones (1991) yang telah diubahsuai untuk mengukur pengurusan perolehan melalui pengiraan 'discretionary accruals (DA)' dan 'discretionary current accruals (DCA)' manakala nilai pemimpin korporat diukur dengan pendekatan spiritualiti di tempat kerja sepertimana yang dikemukakan oleh Ashmos and Duchon (2000). Soal selidik berasaskan penilaian diri diedarkan kepada pemimpin korporat terutamanya Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif untuk mengenalpasti persepsi nilai pemimpin korporat bagi sesebuah syarikat. Penemuan kajian menunjukkan bahawa kesedaran keteguhan kerohanian mempunyai potensi untuk menguatkan sistem tadbir urus korporat melalui kerjasama dan sokongan pengarah bebas dalam mengurangkan aktiviti pengurusan perolehan. Penemuan kajian ini mencadangkan bahawa integriti dan etika pemimpin korporat adalah penting untuk membangunkan budaya korporat yang baik dalam mengekalkan manfaat jangka panjang kepada pihak berkepentingan terutamanya apabila membentangkan laporan kewangan korporat berkualiti baik.

## THE ROLE AND INFLUENCE OF CORPORATE LEADER VALUES ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS AND FINANCIAL REPORTING QUALITY

#### ABSTRACT

Even after twenty years of implementing corporate governance system, corporate scandals and failures are still happening. Most empirical studies show inconsistent and at best, inconclusive findings regarding the effects of corporate governance mechanisms such as board and audit committee characteristics and ownership structure on a quality of financial reporting. The effectiveness of corporate governance is also affected by institutional factors that are shaped by history and political contexts. Most corporations in developing countries including Malaysia demonstrate high concentration ownership, government intervention and family dominance. This would lead to low transparency, inadequate disclosure and minority shareholder expropriation as majority shareholders tend to maximise their private benefits. The enforcement of corporate governance principles practised by corporations does not reflect the quality of corporate people who actually govern the corporations. Hence, it is important to study the role of corporate leader values as an organization is typically shaped up by the attitude, values and vision of a corporate leader. The vision, philosophy, future direction shared by the CEO is important to corporations in ensuring all governance related matters are handled as efficiently and as effectively as possible. The values held and shared by the leader will shape the extent of reporting quality by the corporation. Thus, this study will fill the void by examining the role and influence of corporate leader's values on corporate

governance mechanisms and the extent of earnings management. Reporting quality of 120 non-financial companies listed on Bursa Malaysia is examined for the year 2010. The study employs Modified Jones Model to measure earnings management through the calculation of discretionary accruals (DA) and discretionary current accruals (DCA) whilst the corporate leader values are measured using workplace spirituality approach as proposed by Ashmos and Duchon (2000). The self-evaluated questionnaire has been distributed to corporate leaders, particularly CEOs, to determine the sense of corporate leader values for each company. The findings of the study show that sense of spiritual values of corporate leader has potential to strengthen the corporate governance system through cooperation and support of independent directors in mitigating earnings management activities. The findings suggest that the integrity and ethics of corporate leader are important to develop a good corporate culture in sustaining long-term benefits to stakeholders, particularly when disclosing good quality corporate financial reports.