MALAYSIAN PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN REPORTING CORRUPTION 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The incidence of corruption and the extent to which it afflicts society is an indicator of governance and development to the extent that it is typically the most important factor that inhibits economic growth and social development. Fighting corruption, is the standard rhetoric of any aspiring politician but the outcome of such intentions are only as good as the weakest links in the principal players in society, i.e. government, business, civil society and the media.

Indeed, the media is in some sense a most important component because it can be a catalyst for public pressure and a medium for change. However, the capacity to do good in the fight against corruption is dependent on how free and independent the media is in a particular context.

The object of this survey was to essentially determine to what extent the Malaysian public sees the media in playing its role as a watchdog body and how well it has kept ordinary Malaysians informed about corrupt activities and action taken to address them. The survey is also in line with Merdeka Center’s role of serving the Malaysian public by surfacing issues pertinent to the national interest and improving the quality of public debate.

About the Survey

The survey was conducted on behalf of the Center for Independent Journalism Malaysia from 16 September to 12 October 2009 on 1,241 adult Malaysian respondents aged 20 and above. Interviews were conducted by telephone on respondents selected on a random, stratified sampling based on state of residence, gender, ethnicity and age groups. In addition, two focus groups were conducted among twenty participants living around the Klang Valley of different gender, ethnicity, working background and preferred choice of newspapers.

This survey, the second in a series of collaborative work between the Merdeka Center for Opinion Research and the Center for Independent Journalism was financially supported by the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung.
Context
The survey was conducted at a time when slightly less than half (47%) of the general public feel that our country is heading at the right direction while 37% felt it was headed in the wrong direction. For those who felt the country was headed in the right direction, the main reasons were the recovery of the economy and continued general peace. While for those who felt Malaysia was heading in the wrong direction, political instability (21%) was cited as the main reason, followed by corruption and cronyism (15%).

When asked what are the major problems that need solving, corruption and abuse of power is on top of the list as mentioned by 13% of respondents. Asked further, 74% were dissatisfied with the way federal government handles the problem.

Overall, corruption is viewed by most Malaysians as a very serious problem. However, the public is evenly split as to the extent that it affects their personal life.

More critically, public belief in the effectiveness of institutions in the front line of the fight against corruption – the media, police, the anti corruption commission, the prime minister or the judiciary, was tepid, ranging from one-half to one third believing that any one of them were effective.

With respect to forms of corruption, the respondents were asked about six different forms of corruption (petty corruption, fraud, nepotism, administrative corruption, corruption among politicians, and grand corruption). Among these, petty corruption, nepotism, corruption among politicians and fraud were viewed as serious by more than 70% each. Slightly over half respondents said that grand corruption was serious but many respondents said that they did not understand or know enough about it.

Role of Media as a Source of Information on Incidence of Corruption
Contrary to the researcher’s presumption that the public found out about corruption from non-media sources, the survey found that the opposite was true where most people said that newspapers and television were their main sources about corruption and that only 12% receive information from family and friends.

When asked to name one incident of corruption in Malaysia that was widely reported by the media, a significant majority (58%) of respondents were not able to name one. Those who were able to name cases mentioned incidents recently highlighted by the media.
Generally, the public is just fairly satisfied with the media reporting on the case. Only slightly more than half respondents are satisfied with media reporting. Indian respondents were the most dissatisfied with 61% of them expressed negatively and 51% of Malay respondents were dissatisfied.

Public generally agreed (83%) that media plays a role in improving integrity and transparency in the country. Public in general also agreed that a free media is key in the fight against corruption. The public also felt that media coverage on corruption does not tarnish the image of the country and instead serves a greater good.

When asked if current laws help or hinder the media in reporting on corruption, the view differed across ethnic lines. A majority of Malay and Bumiputera (Muslim and non-Muslim) respondents thought it helped but over half of Chinese respondents give the opposite view. 45% of Indians also think it hindered reporting.

Public Attitudes towards Media Reporting Slant on Corruption

Generally, the public wanted to see more reports on corruption from the media as opposed to what is being offered now. But the survey also found a trend that showed greater interest among young respondents as opposed to older respondents.

With respect to slant in reporting, less than 30% of respondents perceive that media reporting on large scale corruption was fair and unbiased. Almost half of them feel that the media was biased in its reporting. This sentiment is strongly felt among the Indian respondents (60%) and younger groups (below 40). In the following questions that asked about the public perception on media reporting in favor of various institutions, 74% of the overall respondents said that the media was biased in favor of Barisan Nasional and 58% said it is in favor of the police.

Public Profile on Media Consumption on Corruption Cases

The survey found the public could be divided into four types of news consumers with respect to corruption reporting as follows:

- 14% were very well informed and well aware of corruption cases covered and omitted by the media
- 8% were less aware of media coverage on corruption but knew of instances from outside media sources
• 28% knew about corruption only based on what was reported in the media
• 51% did not read or take notice of corruption reported in the media nor knew of specific instances not covered by the media.
MALAYSIAN PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEDIA’S ROLE IN REPORTING CORRUPTION

Highlights of Public Opinion Survey Findings

November 16, 2009
Supported by

Friedrich Naumann Foundation

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Objectives

Survey objectives

• To explore the Malaysians’ level of satisfaction with the role of media in reporting corruption and to provide the missing link in the recent studies on corruption, which have largely focused on the role public institutions and the opinion of the business sectors.

• The study also aims at highlighting public opinion on the role of the media in fighting corruption and to support the position that the continued restrictions on the media help entrench practices of corruption already perceived as endemic in Malaysia.
Methodology

**Quantitative survey**

- 1241 randomly selected respondents aged 20+ were interviewed via telephone for the survey.

- Respondents were selected via random stratified sampling method along the lines of state of residence, ethnicity, and gender. The survey covers all over Peninsular, Sabah and Sarawak.

- Survey was carried out between 16th Sept and 12th Oct 2009.

- Survey margin of error estimated at ±2.78%

**Qualitative survey**

- The qualitative survey is carried out via 2 focus groups in the Klang Valley on the 13th of October, involving 20 people of different gender, ethnicity, occupational background and preferred choice of newspapers.
MALAYSIAN PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEDIA’S ROLE IN REPORTING CORRUPTION

RESPONDENT PROFILE
Respondent Profile

Ethnicity

- Malay: 50%
- Chinese: 31%
- Indian: 7%
- Muslim Bumiputra: 7%
- Non-Muslim Bumiputra: 5%

Age

- 20-29: 23%
- 30-39: 14%
- 40-49: 25%
- 50-59: 19%
- > 60: 18%

Gender

- Male: 50%
- Female: 50%

Location

- Peninsular Malaysia: 84%
- Sarawak: 8%
- Sabah: 8%

Setting

- Urban: 41%
- Rural: 59%
Respondent Profile

**Education Level**
- No formal education: 3%
- Primary school: 19%
- Secondary school: 51%
- Diploma & equivalent: 15%
- Degree: 12%

**Monthly household income**
- < RM1500 per mth: 37%
- RM1501 - RM3000 per mth: 27%
- RM3001 - RM5000 per mth: 13%
- > RM5000 per mth: 12%
- Don't know: 6%
- No response: 5%

**Internet access**
- At home: 25%
- Workplace/school: 7%
- At home & workplace/school: 4%
- Other locations: 4%
- No internet access: 59%

**Voting status**
- Regular voter: 75%
- Irregular voter: 9%
- Unregistered: 15%
MALAYSIAN PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEDIA’S ROLE IN REPORTING CORRUPTION

CONTEXT
Corruption in the context of national issues

- The public remains ambivalent over the direction of the country
- Corruption is a principal factor among those saying country is headed the wrong direction
- Overall, corruption is seen as a major problem that needs solving
- 74% of the public is not satisfied with government’s handling of the problem.
Perception About National Direction

Considering the conditions in the country today, how strongly would you say that things are heading in the right or wrong direction?

- Strongly in the right direction: 37%
- Somewhat in the right direction: 29%
- Somewhat in the wrong direction: 10%
- Strongly in the wrong direction: 8%
- Don’t know: 15%
- No response: 1%

Less than half, 47%, say the country is headed in the right direction.
Perception About National Direction

Considering the conditions in the country today, how strongly would you say that things are heading in the right or wrong direction?

Among Peninsular Malaysians
Right direction, n= 590

And what would you say is the issue that is the main reason for your answer?

Top 5

- Economic recovery: 31%
- Peaceful condition in the country: 17%
- Don’t know: 17%
- Quality of national leadership & civil servants: 8%
- Good national administration: 7%
Wrong direction , n= 491

And what would you say is the issue that is the main reason for your answer?

**Top 5**

- **Political instability**: 21%
- **Corruption & cronyism**: 15%
- **Unfavourable economic condition**: 12%
- **Quality of national leadership & civil servant**: 8%
- **Government affairs- not transparent/ efficient**: 7%
Corruption & abuse of power is the most important problem at the top of minds of the public in the survey.

What in your view, is the most important problem that needs solving in the country today?

Top 6

- Corruption and abuse of power: 13%
- Social problems: 12%
- Don't know: 11%
- Crime & public safety: 10%
- Political instability: 8%
- None: 7%
Satisfaction with Government in Addressing Top Issues

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with what the federal government is doing to resolve the problem?

- Very dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Don't know

74% dissatisfied with government handling of corruption

- Corruption and abuse of power: 34% very dissatisfied, 40% somewhat dissatisfied, 21% somewhat satisfied, 3% very satisfied, 2% don't know
- Social problems: 20% very dissatisfied, 47% somewhat dissatisfied, 25% somewhat satisfied, 6% very satisfied, 1% don't know
- Crime & public safety: 21% very dissatisfied, 45% somewhat dissatisfied, 27% somewhat satisfied, 3% very satisfied, 4% don't know
- Political instability: 14% very dissatisfied, 45% somewhat dissatisfied, 23% somewhat satisfied, 9% very satisfied, 7% don't know
MALAYSIAN PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEDIA’S ROLE IN REPORTING CORRUPTION

PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION

MERDEKA CENTER FOR OPINION RESEARCH
Perception of Corruption in Malaysia

• Corruption level in the country is serious
• However, half the public feels that corruption has minimal impact on their lives

• Who are those feel not affected: mainly Indian respondents, those with lower education and incomes, without internet access, those who feel good about the country’s direction
• Less than 50% feel that major institutions tasked to fight corruption are effective
• Public is very much aware about petty corruption but less aware of grand corruption
Corruption as a problem in Malaysia

How serious do you think corruption is in this country?

- Not serious at all
- Somewhat not serious
- Somewhat serious
- Very serious
- Don't know

- Overwhelming 81% thinks it is serious.
To what extent do you think corruption affects your personal life?

- 47% feel that they are affected by corruption in personal life.
- 48% feel that they are not affected.

**Perceived Impact of Corruption**

- 26% say they are affected very much.
- 21% say they are affected some.
- 26% say they are not at all affected.
- 4% say they are affected a little.
- 1% say they don't know.
- No response.
### Public less aware about Grand Corruption

How serious would you say is …… in Malaysia?

- Very serious
- Somewhat serious
- Somewhat not serious
- Not serious at all
- Not able to assess/Don't know
- No response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very serious</th>
<th>Somewhat serious</th>
<th>Somewhat not serious</th>
<th>Not serious at all</th>
<th>Not able to assess</th>
<th>No response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petty Corruption</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepotism</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption among Politicians</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Corruption</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Corruption</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42% of respondents view petty corruption as “Very Serious”.

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*Media Role in Reporting Corruption*
Public Opinion Survey Highlights
16 Sept – 12 Oct 09; n = 1241
How serious would you say is ...... in Malaysia?
Example of Corruption from study:

**Petty Corruption**

“He asked how do I want to settle it, should it be ‘inside court’ or ‘outside court’...”

(female, 24 years old, Kuala Lumpur, on encounter with a police due to traffic offence)

**Fraud**

“My friend receives calls from a bank staff who asked for his personal information, and later he found out that his savings had been withdrawn.”

(female, 30 years old, Kuala Lumpur)
Most public institutions seen to be tepid in fighting corruption

Do you think …. is effective or ineffective in fighting corruption?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Ineffective</th>
<th>Effective</th>
<th>Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local media</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACC</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Minister</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MACC

“MACC is not an independent body so it is likely to be bias....”
(Male, 40 years old, Kuala Lumpur)

Federal Government

“I don’t think putting up ‘Anti-rasuah’ badge on the uniform is effective. There is nothing much the government had done besides that.”
(Female, 30 years old, Cheras)

State Government

“It is good to have SELCAT because people now get to know what has happened in the past.”
(Male, 28 years old, Kuala Lumpur)
MALAYSIAN PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEDIA’S ROLE IN REPORTING CORRUPTION

MEDIA ROLE IN REPORTING CORRUPTION
Media Role In Reporting Corruption

- Traditional media - newspapers and TV are the main channels of information about corruption cases/issues
- Public agrees that media is an important player in the fight against corruption – more needs to be done
- Split feeling about whether current laws help or hinder the fight against corruption
Newspapers and TV are the main channels of information about corruption issues

From where do you receive information about corruption?

- Television: 22%
- Newspapers: 22%
- Newspapers & TV: 19%
- Friends/family/relatives: 10%
- Own experience: 5%
- Media in general: 5%
- Friends & newspapers: 4%
- Internet: 3%
- Friends & TV: 2%
- Internet & newspapers/ TV: 2%
- Word of mouth: 2%
- Don't know: 2%
- Others: 1%
- Friends & internet: 1%

63% receive news about corruption from newspapers and television.
But more than 50% could not name a corruption case reported in the media

Can you name one incident of corruption in Malaysia that was widely reported by the media?

- Able to mention an example: 42%
- Don't know: 55%
- No response: 3%

58% of respondents could not name an incident reported by the media.
Among those who in the know, 42% mentioned PKFZ

Can you name one incident of corruption in Malaysia that was widely reported by the media?

Top 5

- Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) scandal: 42%
- Corruption among politicians & leaders: 12%
- Former Selangor Chief Minister, Khir Toyo: 8%
- Teoh Beng Hock murder, MACC: 7%
- Money politics in UMNO, politics & during election: 6%

Among those who know about corruption cases in the media, n= 521
Among those in the know, 51% are not satisfied with the level of reporting on the cases they mentioned.
Malay and Indians are more dissatisfied with media reporting of the cases they mentioned.

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the media reporting of the said case?
Least satisfied with media reporting money politics in UMNO and during elections

Satisfaction with reporting by case/issues

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know
- No response

Money politics in UMNO, politics & during election (n=29)
- 14% Very satisfied
- 24% Somewhat satisfied
- 45% Somewhat dissatisfied
- 14% Very dissatisfied

PKFZ scandal (n=218)
- 6% Very satisfied
- 44% Somewhat satisfied
- 36% Somewhat dissatisfied
- 7% Very dissatisfied
- 7% Don't know

Former Selangor Chief Minister, Khir Toyo (n =42)
- 12% Very satisfied
- 45% Somewhat satisfied
- 31% Somewhat dissatisfied
- 7% Very dissatisfied
- 0% Don't know

Teoh Beng Hock. murder. MACC (n=38)
- 3% Very satisfied
- 55% Somewhat satisfied
- 34% Somewhat dissatisfied
- 5% Very dissatisfied

Corruption among politicians & leaders (n=60)
- 15% Very satisfied
- 47% Somewhat satisfied
- 17% Somewhat dissatisfied
- 20% Very dissatisfied
- 2% Don't know

Media Role in Reporting Corruption
Public Opinion Survey Highlights
16 Sept – 12 Oct 09; n = 1241
79% could not name a corruption incident that they believe is serious but under-reported

Can you name incident(s) of corruption that you believe is serious but under-reported by the media?

- 79% of respondents could not name an incident.
- 21% could not name a corruption incident they believe is serious but under-reported by the media.
Among those in the know, all named instances of corruption involving public sector

Can you name incident(s) of corruption that you believe is serious but under-reported by the media?

**Top 5**

- Corruption among politicians and leaders: 25%
- Corruption in government sector & project: 22%
- Corruption among police: 15%
- Corruption among civil servants: 9%
- Former Selangor Chief Minister, Khir Toyo: 7%
Most people feel the media is not doing enough to follow up on corruption stories

Do you think the major media should follow up/ investigate on allegations of corruption involving those in senior position that appear in blogs/ internet?

- Yes: 84%
- No: 7%
- Don't know: 9%

Do you think the media is following up/ investigating these corruption allegations on blogs/ internet?

- Yes: 49%
- No: 27%
- Don't know: 22%
- No response: 1%

Answered "Yes", n = 1043
Most people agree that media plays an important role in improving integrity & transparency

How strongly do you agree or disagree that the media plays an important role in the present and future improvement of transparency and integrity in the country?

- Strongly agree: 44%
- Somewhat agree: 39%
- Somewhat disagree: 7%
- Strongly disagree: 5%
- Don't know: 4%
- No response: 1%

83% agree that media plays an important role in improving transparency and integrity in the country.
Most people agree that a free media is key in fighting corruption

How strongly do you agree or disagree that a free media is the key to eradicate corruption?

- Strongly agree: 31%
- Somewhat agree: 45%
- Somewhat disagree: 16%
- Strongly disagree: 5%
- Don't know: 1%
- No response: 1%

76% of respondents agree that free media is the key to eradicate corruption.
Most people feel that media coverage of corruption **does not tarnish** the image of the country.

Do you think the coverage of media on corruption is good or bad for the development of the country?

- **72%** Good
- **19%** Bad
- **8%** Don't know
- **1%** No response
Public is split on whether current laws in the country help or hinder the media in its role of fighting corruption

Do you think the current laws help or hinder the media in reporting on corruption?

- **Help**: 48%
- **Hinder**: 32%
- **Don't know**: 17%
- **No response**: 3%
MALAYSIAN PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEDIA’S ROLE IN REPORTING CORRUPTION

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS ON THE MEDIA
Attitude towards the media

• Generally positive towards the media.
• Would like to see more reporting on corruption
• Sees bias in favor ruling federal government in reporting large scale corruption
Public is split on the coverage by traditional media. Among internet users, more than half are satisfied with new media coverage of corruption.

Are you satisfied with the coverage of corruption by ……?

- Print media: 9% Very satisfied, 42% Somewhat satisfied, 29% Somewhat dissatisfied, 6% Very dissatisfied, 6% Don't know, 6% No response
- Television: 9% Very satisfied, 40% Somewhat satisfied, 30% Somewhat dissatisfied, 6% Very dissatisfied, 6% Don't know, 6% No response
- Radio: 7% Very satisfied, 26% Somewhat satisfied, 26% Somewhat dissatisfied, 6% Very dissatisfied, 6% Don't know, 6% No response
- New media: 10% Very satisfied, 22% Somewhat satisfied, 12% Somewhat dissatisfied, 4% Very dissatisfied, 43% Don't know, 4% No response

High percentage of “don’t know” reflects that internet penetration in the country is still low.
Satisfaction towards media

Are you satisfied with the coverage of corruption by ……?

- Radio:
  - Satisfied: 33%
  - Dissatisfied: 37%
  - Net: -4%

- Television:
  - Satisfied: 49%
  - Dissatisfied: 39%
  - Net: 10%

- Printed media:
  - Satisfied: 51%
  - Dissatisfied: 38%
  - Net: 13%
Among the internet users, n = 506

Are you satisfied with the coverage of corruption by ……?

**New media (n=506)**

- Very satisfied: 17%
- Somewhat satisfied: 35%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 20%
- Very dissatisfied: 5%
- Don't know: 4%
- No response: 0%

**Net**

- Satisfied: 52%
- Dissatisfied: 25%

52% are satisfied with the coverage of corruption online.
A large majority want to see more reports on corruption in the media

Would you like to see more reports on corruption from the media compared to the current mode of reporting?

- Yes: 75%
- No: 17%
- Don't know: 4%
- No response: 4%
A majority say media is biased when reporting corruption

Do you think the media is biased when reporting on large scale corruption?

- Not bias: 28%
- Bias: 48%
- Don't know: 19%
- No response: 5%
Ruling party and government agencies seen to benefit from media bias

Do you think that the media is biased towards….?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes - bias towards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barisan Nasional</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police force</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sectors</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakatan Rakyat</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

68% 40% 24% 0% -13%
MALAYSIAN PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEDIA’S ROLE IN REPORTING CORRUPTION

PUBLIC PROFILE ON CORRUPTION AWARENESS
Corruption cases that are widely reported by the media vs. under-report by the media.

Aware of corruption cases widely reported by media

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14% (n = 172)</td>
<td>8% (n = 93)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Aware of media under-reporting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28% (n = 349)</td>
<td>51% (n = 627)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Group 1 – 14% of the overall respondents
Very well informed and well aware of corruption cases covered and omitted by the media

- Comprised of 42% Malay & 40% Chinese.
- 72% male
- 62% are 40 years old and above
- 44% have a diploma and above
- 41% with monthly household income more than RM 3000
- 59% with internet access.
- Feel strongly that corruption is serious in the country (92%) and corruption affects their personal lives (59%).
- 48% state heading in the wrong direction.
- 55% dissatisfied with the way things are in the country.

### Group 2 – 8% of the overall respondents
Less aware of media coverage on corruption but knew of instances from outside media source.

- 57% Malay, 16% Chinese & 14% Indian, 12% Bumiputera
- 53% Male
- Mixture of middle-aged (26%) & younger group (27%)
- 72% with secondary education and below.
- Lower income group – 72% have less than RM 3000
- 53% without internet access.
- Feel that corruption is serious in the country (88%) and affects personal lives (56%).
- 53% state heading in the right direction.
- 55% satisfied with the way things are in the country.
### Group 3 – 28% of the overall respondents
Knew about corruption only based on what was reported in the media.

- 43% Chinese & 42% Malay
- 52% Male
- Middle-aged to older folks (64% above 40 years old)
- 70% with secondary education and below
- 54% with monthly household income lesser than RM 3000.
- 53% with internet access
- 84% feel corruption is serious but effects on personal lives are split.
- 40 : 45 between right direction and wrong direction
- 49 : 50 between satisfaction and dissatisfaction

### Group 4 – 51% of the overall respondents
Did not read or take notice of corruption reported in the media nor knew of specific instances not covered by the media.

- 56% Malays, 24% Chinese
- 58% female
- 63% are 40 years old and above
- 77% with secondary education and below
- 45% with monthly household income lesser than RM1500
- 68% without internet access
- 74% feel that corruption is serious but did not affect personal lives (51%)
- 53% state heading in the right direction
- 66% satisfied with the way things are in the country.
MALAYSIAN PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEDIA’S ROLE IN EXPOSING CORRUPTION

CONCLUSIONS
Conclusions I

- Corruption is a principal factor among those saying country is headed the wrong direction and is a major problem that needs solving.
- Most are not satisfied with government’s handling of the problem.
- Most feel that corruption levels are serious.
- Split views on whether corruption affects their daily lives.
- Less than 50% feel that institutions that fight corruption are effective.
Conclusions II

• The traditional media remains most important source of information about corruption

• Satisfaction with reporting coverage of corruption is low, especially among those with greater awareness

• Most report awareness of bias in favor ruling party and government agencies

• Most agree that a media, especially a free media is a key element in fighting corruption