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RISM-QS DIVISION'S CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) ACTIVITIES IN RAMADHAN 2024: A JOURNEY OF COMPASSION AND REFLECTION

In the month of Ramadhan, the RISM-QS Division embarked on a series of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities aimed at fostering Surveyors' Social Responsibility (SSR). Despite the solemnity of fasting, our hearts were moved by the poignant experiences during our visits to various charitable institutions.

First of all, The QS Division SSR secured RM3,000 from the Benevolent Fund for Sr Norazilan Mazahar, diagnosed with Kidney Failure. The RISM QS Council swiftly approved the disbursement before Hari Raya Aidil Fitri. Sr Norazilan served on various sub-committees, displaying unwavering commitment. We wish him a speedy recovery and offer continued support.

On March 27, 2024, with a visit to Rumah Kebajikan Darul Aitam in Kota Bharu, Kelantan. Here, we encountered 90 orphaned children finding solace under the care of Ustaz Afifi and Tuan Yasman, their stories of resilience amidst adversity deeply touching our team.

Continuing our outreach, on April 4, 2024, we extended our support to Pusat Jagaan Pertubuhan Kebajikan Anak-Anak Yatim dan Asnaf Baitun Nurrawdhah in Kuala Lumpur. Witnessing the tender care provided to 30 young souls, some as young as five years old, reaffirmed our commitment to supporting the most vulnerable members of our community.

Our journey of compassion culminated in a visit to Pusat Jagaan Pertubuhan Kebajikan Anak-Anak Yatim dan Asnaf Raudhatul Jannah in Olak Lempit, Banting, Selangor, also on April 4, 2024. Here, the dedication of Hj. Zawalajam Mashod, the manager, to ensuring a brighter future for the 20 children under his care moved us profoundly.

These impactful visits were made possible through the generous contributions from the profit of the CPD program organized by the RISM-QS Division for the session 2023/2024. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members who participated in this initiative, praying that their generosity is blessed abundantly during this sacred month.

Reflecting on our SSR activities, we acknowledge the uniqueness of each individual's journey while recognizing that our collective efforts lead us towards a shared destination of compassion and hope.

We are delighted to share photos from our visits to these remarkable centers, serving as a reminder of the profound impact we can make when we come together in service to others.

As we move forward, let us continue to spread hope and compassion, not just during Ramadan, but throughout the year. We express our sincere appreciation to all who have joined us on this journey.

QS JAMBOREE 2024 MEETING BETWEEN RISM QS DIVISION AND UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA, CAWANGAN PERAK

At the meeting held on 25th March 2024, representatives from both RISM QS Division and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Cawangan Perak, gathered at Bilik Mesyuarat Orchid, Level 16, CIDB 520, The Met & Corporate Tower, No. 20, Jalan Dutamas 2, 50480 Kuala Lumpur to discuss the arrangements and details concerning the upcoming QS Jamboree 2024, scheduled to take place from 10th to 13th June 2024 at UiTM, Cawangan Perak.

Representatives Present:

Representing RISM QS Division were Sr Nazir Muhamad Nor (Chair), Sr Dr. Muhammad Imran Zin Zawawi, and Zarinah Danial, serving as the Secretariat. From UiTM, Cawangan Perak, attendees included Assoc. Prof. Sr Dr Haryati Mohd Isa, Assoc. Prof. Dr Kharizam Ismail, Sr Dr Shahela Mamtar, and Dr Nor Atiqah Mustapa.

Discussion Highlights:

Participating Institutions:

It was agreed upon that the event would see participation from 25 universities, university colleges, colleges, and polytechnics recognized by the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia (BQSM).

Theme:

The theme of the Jamboree, "Sustainability & Digitization in QS Profession," was discussed and finalized, aiming to address contemporary issues in the field and foster discussions around them.

Event Commencement:

The official commencement of the event on 11th June 2024, including the Opening Ceremony and Professional Talks, was outlined. It was decided that YBhg Datuk Sr Amran Mohd Majid would represent BQSM, while Sr Dr Muhammad Imran Zin Zawawi would represent RISM QS Division. The confirmation of the additional representative from RISM QS Division was deferred.

Logistics and Support:

UiTM graciously agreed to provide accommodation for invited speakers, with logistic costs to be borne by the RISM QS Division.

Hybrid Session and Discounts:

UiTM committed to organizing a hybrid session during the professional talk. Additionally, the QS Division requested a 50% discount for RISM members, which UiTM agreed to discuss further with their management.

Promotional Material:

UiTM undertook to amend the brochure into two separate brochures, one for the Jamboree and the other for the professional talk. The QS Division pledged assistance in promoting the event by

distributing information to QS members, with the secretariat providing them with the latest RISM logo.

Membership Drive and Booth:

A request was made by the QS Division for a membership drive and a booth for RISM at the event, to which UiTM agreed to provide facilitation.

Scholarship Nominations:

UiTM was requested to nominate B40 students for a special scholarship by the Division, with criteria to be finalized after the next month's meeting. Furthermore, UiTM was encouraged to promote RISM scholarships to their students, with relevant information available on the RISM website.

Conclusion:

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both parties expressing commitment and enthusiasm towards the successful execution of the QS Jamboree 2024. The collaboration between RISM QS Division and UiTM holds promise for enriching the field of Quantity Surveying and fostering professional development within the community.

QS Jamboree 2024 Meeting between RISM QS Division and UiTM

BECOMING A QS – KNOWLEDGE SHARING WITHIN THE INDUSTRY

The "Becoming A QS – Knowledge Sharing With The Industry" event, held on 20 April 2024 at RISM HQ Petaling Jaya (Basement Level), attracted 46 participants along with 4 Sub-Committee members. The event aimed to share insights, trends, and developments in the QS fields by featuring four Industry Speakers from diverse backgrounds: Consulting QS, Academician, Government's Implementing Agency (JKR), and Oil & Gas Industry.

Sr Abd Hafiz bin Abd Razak, Director of Jurukur Bahan Antara Sdn Bhd, commenced the session, sharing experiences as a Consultant QS, including challenges encountered across construction phases and insights from projects like KLIA2 and SMART.

Following, Sr Dr. Loo Siaw Chuing (Angeline), Senior Lecturer at the Department of Quantity Surveying, Universiti Malaya, elaborated on the multifaceted role of a QS Academician, emphasizing teaching, research, and consultancy experiences.

Sr Azwan bin Mohd Hashim, a Registered Consultant QS at JKR Facilities Management Office, shared insights into Facilities Management at Istana Negara and his professional journey. His presentation, "My Journey Towards Professional QS: A Story Beyond Numbers," highlighted his expertise in consultancy management.

Lastly, Sr Aminudin Yahia, Head Project Directorate at PETRONAS Chemicals Group (PCG) Berhad, provided insights into PETRONAS Project Management System and recent industry projects, showcasing his extensive experience in the Oil & Gas Industry.

The Knowledge Sharing program concluded by 1.00pm, followed by participants' engagement at the President's Lounge for the Hari Raya Open House by QS Division. Participants expressed satisfaction with the program and anticipation for future engagements with RISM QS Division.

1st Speaker – Sr Abd Hafiz bin Abd Razak

2nd Speaker - Sr Dr. Loo Siaw Chuing (Angeline)

3rd Speaker - Sr Azwan bin Mohd Hashim

4th Speaker - Sr Aminudin Yahia

RISM QS DIVISION – HARI RAYA OPEN HOUSE

On 20 April 2024, the RISM QS Division Hari Raya Open House unfolded at the President's Lounge Level 2, RISM HQ Petaling Jaya, offering a spacious and accommodating setting for the festive gathering. The event drew a diverse crowd, with an anticipated attendance of nearly 70 Guests, including their family members, fostering widespread participation and engagement. Notably, Special Guests from the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers (SISV) graced the occasion, including Mr Wong Kin Hoong (President - Quantity Surveying Divisional Council) and Mr Goh Ngan Hong (Advisor - Quantity Surveying Divisional Council).

A delightful spread of traditional Hari Raya delicacies and refreshments awaited the guests, featuring an array of mouthwatering treats such as Nasi Briyani, Ayam Masak Rose, Pajeri Nenas, Papedom, Mee Kari, Nasi Impit, Ketupat Palas, Kuah Kacang, Rendang Daging, and Roti Jala with Kari Ayam. Attendees seized the opportunity to network, socialize, and forge connections in the warm and welcoming ambiance, as the event provided a platform for QS Division members to exchange greetings and strengthen bonds.

The RISM QS Division Hari Raya Open House was a resounding success, embodying the spirit of unity, cultural diversity, and the essence of Hari Raya. With its values of inclusivity and cohesion, the event left a positive impact on all participants, symbolizing a celebration of togetherness and community spirit.

Set-Up for Hari Raya Open House

Some of the guests including Special Guests from SISV

Guests with RISM QS Division Committees

RISM QS Division Committee Members 2023-2024

Selfie from "Mr Rockstar"

VERSATILITY OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS IN BALANCING THE COST AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL, EDUCATION, AND THE PROFESSIONAL BODIES

A quantity surveyor (QS) is known as a professional with specialized knowledge of construction cost management and contracts procurement. Traditionally, QS prepare early cost estimates, elemental cost planning and producing bills of quantities during the pre-contract stages. The preparation of interim payments, cashflow forecast, final accounts and settling the contractual claims are all parts of their job during the post-contract stages. These traditional roles seem to be reactive, as their tasks completion is highly dependent on information provided by the client, designers, and the contractors. There was also controversy on the relevance of traditional QS's skills in today's construction industry, claiming that technologies can replace cost management and contracts works. However, this is not an absolute notion about the profession. As a quantity surveyor registered under the Board of Quantity Surveyor Malaysia (BQSM) and Royal Institution of Surveyor Malaysia (RISM), I have different insights into this challenging profession in the dynamic construction industry.

Today, urban sprawl and industrialisation causing escalation of environmental impacts, which urges the industry to compel and adapt into multi-faceted sustainable solutions (Hong et al., 2019). Sustainability embraces the preservation of environment and also the critical issues arouse such as the efficient use of natural resources, stable economic growth, continual social progress, and the eradication of poverty. In the construction sector, sustainable design and development is no longer a mere trend but an absolute necessity to balance of social, economic, and environmental performance throughout the life cycle while minimize adverse effect on local community. All construction stakeholders are playing fundamental roles for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the United Nation (UN). The populace always has the perceptions that achieving sustainability in construction majorly relying on how the architects design the buildings. Albeit the architects and engineers are playing significant roles in producing climate responsive design, from low-energy to net-zero building, the roles of the quantity surveyors are indispensable in supporting a holistic sustainable solution. As there are growing demand of client's emphasis on sustainability, construction projects are becoming more complicated. The integration of advanced technologies, new materials, and construction methods in sustainable projects pushes the quantity surveyors extend their roles beyond just financial considerations. Instead of costing a design produced by the architects, the genuine QS consultant job is to provide pro-active advice in the design solution options, designing an effective cost plan that aligns with the client's budget while

meeting their sustainable design expectation for the best value of client. These are on-going dynamic process that challenging the quantity surveying practices day by day.

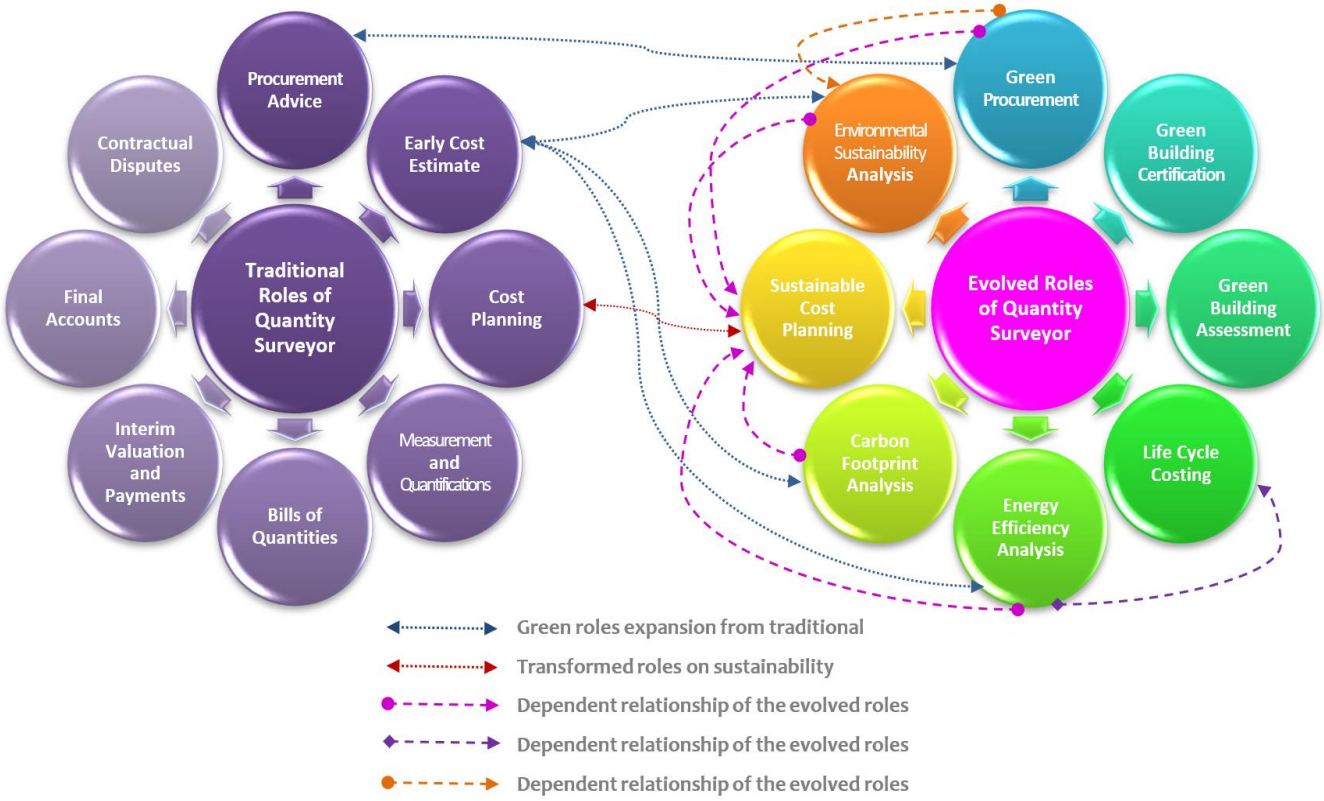

Figure 1: This figure illustrates the roles of quantity surveyor moving from traditional to sustainability expectations. The demonstrated relationships are complicated but not an exhaustive version as in practical

Figure 1 above shows the comparison of traditional roles against evolving roles of quantity surveyors in relation to sustainable construction. The figure shows complex relationships between the conventional early cost advice practices with expanded green roles, indicating the challenges in producing an accurate and sound early cost estimate and cost plan. The contemporary quantity surveyors have the obligation to provide an early cost advice with sustainability considerations, regardless of how conventional the client's demand is. There will be higher demand from the clients concerning the cost-effective design solutions, financial viability of green building technologies for long-term sustainability benefits. On top of green procurement, life-cycle costing, green building certification and assessment, costing advice from the quantity surveyors will need to focus into energy efficient design solutions, carbon footprint, as well as environmental sustainability analysis. Therefore, staying relevant and updated with sustainability trends and technology advancements allows quantity surveyors to provide informed advice and recommendations to clients, ensuring sustainable choices are made throughout the project life cycle.

Quantity surveyors indeed playing a crucial role in sustainable procurement practices. They evaluate the environmental credentials of material suppliers, negotiate contracts that prioritize sustainability, and monitor compliance with green procurement policies. During

the early cost advice stages, quantity surveyors should actively advocate the use of sustainable material by evaluating its environmental impact and construction methods, as different choices will have significant financial implications for the construction cost, as well as the life cycle cost. Assessing the embodied carbon, recyclability, durability and responsible sourcing practices of the selected materials are the keys to decrease carbon footprint of construction projects and fosters a circular economy. They should also learn about the fundamental design knowledge such as passive design strategies, high-performance insulation, and energy-efficient HVAC systems for lower the operating costs and minimize the project's environmental footprint. Besides, assessing carbon footprint and energy consumption during the building operation stage are the new competencies required by the quantity surveyors to support low-carbon development. By conducting feasibility studies through carbon footprint assessment and energy performance analysis of buildings, quantity surveyors are able to estimate the long-term savings opportunity associated with low-carbon and sustainable energy solutions. Besides, renewable energy systems such as solar panels or wind turbines integrated into the project shall be proposed through the evaluation of its financial viability, return on investment, and environmental benefits. Subsequently, quantity surveyors can perform life cycle costing techniques to assess the total cost of ownership of a building or infrastructure project over its entire lifespan, including construction, operation and maintenance, and disposal costs. This practice allows assessment of long-term costs of different design choices, materials options, and maintenance strategies so that advice can be provided to client for wiser investment that offer cost savings over time.

The abovementioned sustainable practices evidenced the challenges faced by the modern quantity surveyors as there is no simple calculation work that can be fully replaced by software or technologies, such as Building Information Modelling (BIM). The profession requires ample sustainability literacy to justify how the sustainable costings are delivered, and how the assumptions were made for higher accuracy in cost planning. Their awareness, knowledge, and good communication skills enable valuable advice to clients for optimal decision-making.

On top of the sustainable costing roles, another suggested sustainable practice for quantity surveyors is on effective waste management plans. This plan will be incorporating the reduce, reuse and recycle concepts aligned with the national waste disposal regulations. It encompasses quantifying waste generation, evaluating recycling opportunities, and identifying strategies to minimise waste while concurrently maximise recycling and reuse opportunities throughout the construction process. Apart from that, understanding the latest environmental regulations and standards will ease the quantity surveyor in advising environmental permits, green building assessment and certification criteria, and sustainable building codes. This will assist clients in facilitating the certification process and obtaining green building certifications such as GBI (Green Building index),

BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

The professional bodies such as Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (AIQS), and even our local Royal Institution of Surveyor Malaysia (RISM) are constantly accentuating the needs of the profession versatility toward sustainability. Despite numerous scholarly articles wrote about the emerging roles and required competencies of quantity surveyors in sustainable construction, these armchair strategists failed to demonstrate a clear direction on how these roles can be entirely incorporated into sustainable construction. It is observed that the sustainable practices of quantity surveyors have not reached its maturity level in the local industry. Higham and Thomson (2015) believe that there is a disparity between the construction professionals' understanding of sustainability and how their perceptions of it are translated into practice, thus creating a necessity to identify the competencies expected of a quantity surveyor engaged in sustainable construction. Haron, Ibrahim & Rawi (2017) supported that the practicing quantity surveyors in Malaysia are facing difficulties in adopting green practices due to lack of awareness and little skills and knowledge in the field of sustainability. Although sustainability concept has been introduced in 1987, and the SDGs have been adopted since 2015, the issues of slow pickup of green practices in the industry is evident. The majority only have common understanding that quantity surveyors need to have a good literacy on sustainability by knowing more on green construction and green project management, without knowing the reason and process in depth. Many QS consultant firms in Malaysia, especially the small medium size organisations remained focusing into measurement and contract works. It is hardly to initiate separate work departments specifically for sustainable projects or BIM to run all the advanced cost analysis. In fact, BIM is one of the core technical competencies that has to be possessed by the quantity surveyors. On top of the function of auto-extracting quantities from the 3D building model, the function can be extended to 4D for scheduling, 5D for Cost modelling, 6D for sustainable energy analysis and 7D for lifecycle strategies and maintenance support. Soon, Hassan & Abidin (2016) reported that Malaysia is currently in a slow transition process, moving from a CAD-based to a BIM-based modelling. The changes will have impacts on the typical QS workflow where the organisation structure will be modified, the roles and responsibilities will be redeployed accordingly. However, the progress is far behind the developed countries like US, UK and Europe countries.

A handful of quantity surveying graduates do not show clear understanding about the emerging roles on sustainability. They have doubts of which area they can focus and work in supporting a sustainable construction, and whether the consultant or organisation they are joining will provide the opportunity for better developing their skills on carbon assessment, energy efficiency consultation, life cycle costing analysis etc. Ab Malek, Zamri, Ali, & Jenuwa (2023) reported significant challenges among the quantity surveying students towards the evolving roles and services in sustainability. On top of lacking in

sustainability literacy, the study found some institutions are maintaining the outdated curriculum design, too traditional services oriented, too theory oriented and lack of collaboration between industry and higher learning institutions. This indicating unawareness of the local higher learning institutions in following the market trends of sustainability. The quantity surveying programme in the higher learning institutions should integrate sufficient sustainability contents in the curriculum design, either as an independent core course and, or embedded in other courses to align with the contemporary needs of the industry. The programme should also assess whether the sustainability literacy embedded in the curriculum is practical, and whether additional short courses or trainings shall be initiated. Undergraduate quantity surveying students are encouraged to undergo industrial trainings to experience sustainable related practices, participate in professional development activities such as conferences and workshops for knowledge enhancement, technological advancements and stay up to date with sustainable construction practices. They can also choose to enrol for postgraduate studies to further enhance their knowledge in the related disciplines.

In summary, sustainability in construction is no longer restricted to the realm of theory but an ongoing and mandated implementation that can forge a greener industry. Moving from traditional projects to sustainable construction, it is the quantity surveyors' role to advise and balance out economic, social and environmental impacts. They have huge power to influence decisions that result in reduced environmental impact, improved efficiency, and long-term cost savings. Their role in sustainable construction indeed requires more attention. The local quantity surveyors are recommended to upgrade themselves with relevant skills and knowledge in sustainable development environment. The QS professional bodies should also work in synergy with the government and consultant firms for seeking alternatives in aligning the sustainability market demand e.g. provide subsidies or tax relief for BIM facilities. Besides, when the existing education system is fully set up for sustainable construction, the industry will demonstrate readiness to embrace sustainable practices for shaping a greener future.

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ETHICAL MISCONDUCT FROM A QUANTITY SURVEYOR'S PERSPECTIVE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Ethics refers to moral principles that shape people's attitudes and Behaviour, significantly impacting any profession's credibility and quality standards (Gilman, 2005). The construction industry plays a crucial role in contributing to the economic development of a country. According to (Adnan et al., 2012), maintaining high ethical standards is vital for maximizing profitability and ensuring the efficient functioning of the industry. Despite advancements and technological innovations within the sector, upholding proper ethical conduct by all industry participants remains essential for success.

Nonetheless, the construction industry involves multiple stakeholders with their interests, making it challenging to completely eradicate unethical practices, as stated by (Bimbola Akinrata & Johnson Ogungbile, 2018). However, it is crucial to consistently combat such practices by fostering a strong ethical culture, enhancing transparency, and implementing strict disciplinary measures, as recommended by (Akpomiemie et al., 2018). Moreover, ethical issues in the industry have long-term detrimental effects on engineering and construction firms. These effects encompass expenses incurred in lost tenders, ambiguous tendering processes, increased project costs, economic harm, extortion, legal troubles, penalties, blocklisting, and reputational risks, as highlighted by (Amoah & Steyn, 2022)

Ethics are crucial and have a significant impact on the success of a project, as evident in the mentioned scenario. The profession of quantity surveying encounters significant ethical challenges. Numerous quantity surveyors hold influential positions within the network of relationships among different project stakeholders, which can lead to unethical behaviours, as pointed out by Bimbola Akinrata (2019).

According to (Ebekozien et al., 2021), Quantity Surveyors (QS) are considered an essential profession within the construction industry, and they are expected to exhibit high standards of ethical professionalism. QS have a crucial role to play in construction projects, as their services encompass various areas such as project evaluation, cost administration, procurement administration, cost planning, contract organization, feasibility studies, resource monetary management, and other activities involved in financial management within the construction sector, as confirmed by (Sheikh Ilmi et al., 2021)

1.1.1 Problem Statement

According to Sr Aziz (2018), there has been a decline in the professional ethics of Quantity Surveyors compared to their practices in the early 1980s. During that time, the practices were more hands-on, highly knowledgeable, and focused on precision. The emphasis was

on achieving perfection and maintaining high quality in their work. However, the current norm suggests a deterioration in professional ethics among Quantity Surveyors.

According to (Hashim et al., 2021), Quantity Surveyors (QS) involved in construction processes may have opportunities to engage in unethical and improper Behaviour, which can harm the profession's reputation. Similarly, Bimbola Akinrata (2019) argue that when accounting and building procedures are carried out incorrectly, QS may be inclined towards unethical and improper practices, which can harm the profession. Consequently, unethical Behaviour within the construction industry has a substantial negative impact on the sector, economic development, and human resources.

The research further emphasized the role of quantity surveyors (QS) in managing financial matters in construction projects and their vulnerability to integrity issues such as corruption, necessitating specialized studies in ethical decision-making (EDM) for quantity surveying. Furthermore, a survey was conducted by (Hashim et al., 2021). Abdul-Rahman et al. (2010) indicated that 74.2% of participants in the construction sector agreed that unethical Behaviour is widespread in the Malaysian construction industry. This process involves the participation of Quantity Surveyors, where the preparation of tenderers' evaluation and tender evaluation report documentation relies on QS's responsibility. Thus, this study intends to focus on the ethical misconduct of quantity surveyors in the construction project by examining the prevalence of unethical practices within the construction industry.

Unethical practices among Quantity Surveyors in construction projects have several consequences, as found in the study by (Akinrata et al., 2020). These consequences include conflicts between the client and construction team, reduced productivity and efficiency, a decline in professionalism, poor quality, higher maintenance needs, increased contract costs, inadequate project coordination, subpar infrastructure development, hindered industry growth, shortened building lifespan, loss of public trust, and compromised infrastructure quality.

1.1.2 Research Objectives

This study aims to determine the extent of ethical misconduct among quantity surveyors. This paper aims to (1) identify the consideration level of unethical practices among Quantity Surveyors and (2) determine the significant differences in the consideration level of ethical misconduct among quantity surveyors.

1.2 ETHICAL MISCONDUCT AMONG QUANTITY SURVEYORS

According to Oliver et al. (2006), ethical misconduct among quantity surveyors in the construction industry in Malaysia refers to actions that go against recognized ethical principles and standards. This misconduct can manifest in various ways, such as supplanting, corruption, bribery, falsification of documents, negligence, unethical payment and leaking of tender information.

1.2.1 Supplanting

According to (Ebunoluwa Bimbola et al., 2020), supplanting is an unethical behaviour exhibited by quantity surveyors in the construction industry. This misconduct involves taking over the role of another appointed quantity surveyor in a project the client has already selected without the proper termination or discharge of the existing quantity surveyor's appointment.

In addition, Rule No. 34 of Quantity Surveyors' Amendment Rules (2016) states that a registered Quantity Surveyor practising as a Consulting Quantity Surveying Practice should not intervene in or take over the practice of another. (Juruukur & Malaysia, 2016)

The rules further explained that supplanting occurs when a quantity surveyor replaces or attempts to replace another registered quantity surveyor with whom an employer or client already engages. Additionally, quantity surveyors are prohibited from obtaining an engagement by offering lower fees or employing any other means of undercutting. Moreover, it is also considered a form of supplanting when an individual seeks to intervene or attempts to intervene in the engagement of another registered quantity surveyor engaged in consulting quantity surveying practice.

1.2.2 Corruption

Corruption is a comprehensive concept that covers various illicit activities in which individuals exploit their responsibilities for personal benefit. When referring to corruption, it entails examining the motives and advantages of those engaged in corrupt practices, as confirmed by (Kai Yee & Tunku Abdul Rahman, 2019). Furthermore, according to the Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), corruption is defined as the act of offering or accepting gratification or rewards, which can be in the form of cash or other valuable benefits.

In relation to quantity surveyors' profession, corruption may happen in various stages. Corruption among quantity surveyors is the unethical and illegal Behaviour exhibited by professionals in the field. It entails abusing power, influence, or authority to gain personal benefits or advantage through dishonest and fraudulent practices. Examples of corruption among quantity surveyors include gratification, rewards, kickbacks, embezzlement, bid-rigging, fraudulent reporting of project costs, and collusion with contractors or suppliers for personal financial gain (Ratshisuka, 2017).

On top of that, as recorded by (Hashim et al., 2021), corruption can manifest in the form of cronyism during the tendering process, where individuals in positions of power award contracts to their associates or connections (cronies). In a scenario similar to the one mentioned, the open tender may already have predetermined applicants who are intended to be awarded the projects. In such cases, the quantity surveyor may be asked to alter the tender documents to ensure the projects are granted to their pre-selected candidates. This misuse of power and manipulation of the tendering process is considered a form of corruption.

1.2.3 Bribery

Bribery involves offering money or gifts to influence the Behaviour of the recipient. It is considered a criminal act and consists in giving, offering, receiving, or soliciting valuable items to manipulate the actions of an official or individuals responsible for public or legal duties, as mentioned by (Yousef Al-sweity, 2013)Bribery in the context of awarding contracts is seen as the most blatant form of corruption in the procurement of construction projects. Recent empirical studies have highlighted a significant connection between the prevalence of bribery and adverse development outcomes, particularly in underdeveloped countries, as noted by Ameh & Odusami, (2010)

Furthermore, as written in the Code of Ethics & Conduct set by the Quantity Surveyors Registration Council (QSRC), quantity surveyors are prohibited from offering gifts or any form of consideration in order to secure employment. Additionally, quantity surveyors are expected to make professional decisions without being influenced by personal factors such as favouritism, nepotism, or bribery, as outlined by the Quantity Surveyors Registration Council (n.d.).

1.2.4 Falsification of Document

In the study conducted by Olusola et al., (2016), various issues were identified, including intentional concealment of errors, manipulation of contract figures, and falsification of reports among Quantity Surveyors. Falsification of reports may occur, particularly when Quantity Surveyors encounter conflicts of interest among the construction parties. Plus, according to (Hashim et al., 2021), falsifying reporting and documentation is commonly associated with governmental processes and a lack of transparency, particularly evident during the tendering process, as indicated in their interview-based research.

Falsifying documents may lead to poor documentation of essential documents such as tender, contract, and final account reports. According to a report by Oliver et al. (2006), inadequate quality of tender documentation can contribute to improper or unethical Behaviour within the construction industry. This issue creates a considerable level of concern among industry participants. Poor documentation can have three implications: it can facilitate unethical Behaviour by others, it is considered unethical itself and unethical Behaviour can lead to inadequate documentation, which further perpetuates other unethical practices.

1.2.5 Negligence

As defined by Delbridge et al. (2000), negligence refers to the failure to exercise the required level of care that safeguards the interests of others who may be adversely affected by such negligence. Poon (2004) further explains that negligence relates to the obligation to provide proper care and the failure to fulfil this duty of care towards others. Negligence can manifest in various ways, including inadequate documentation, substandard workmanship, poor material quality, insufficient safety standards, and delayed or incomplete payment, as highlighted by Poon (2004) and Berawi et al. (2008).

According to (Zulkepli, 2012), in the legal case of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council v Frank Haslam Milan & Co Ltd and Another, negligence related to errors in the specified materials in Bills of Quantities (BQ) was discussed. The court ruling indicated that

neither the architect nor any Rotherham employees were aware of the error in question. This case illustrates that a quantity surveyor, as a professional, reasonably expects to possess sufficient knowledge and experience when preparing a Bill of Quantities. The Bill of Quantities includes specifications for materials, serving as instructions for contractors during the construction phase. Contractors can pursue legal action for negligence if such instructions are flawed.

Thus, the quantity surveyor's negligence can be considered professional negligence. It occurs when QS fails to exercise reasonable care and expertise, resulting in mistakes and work delays. In the case of quantity surveyors, negligence can occur at different stages of their scope of work. The preparation of Bills of Quantities, measurement and taking off quantities and progress of site evaluation are particularly crucial and susceptible to negligence.

1.2.6 Unethical Payment

Unethical payment practices among quantity surveyors involve inappropriate and dishonest handling of financial transactions and payments within their professional responsibilities. These practices encompass a range of unethical behaviours related to payments. According to Hashim et al. (2021), delays in payment are common in the construction industry. This is primarily due to various stakeholders' involvement and bureaucratic procedures necessary for approving payments, especially in large projects. Government projects, in particular, face additional complexities, as multiple levels of processing and approval are required, leading to longer processing times due to administrative obstacles. For example, payment approval may be dependent on a monthly committee meeting. If the meeting concludes before approval is granted, the payment must wait until the next meeting.

Furthermore, as affirmed by (Paul et al., 2021), several issues were identified in the construction industry, including late and insufficient payment and unfair treatment of contractors during negotiations. Additionally, when assessing the progress of construction work for Interim Certificates, Quantity Surveyors are responsible for accurately valuing the work performed on-site to prevent overpayments or underpayments. Quantity Surveyors must justify the claims (Olusola et al., 2016) made by contractors based on honest valuations to ensure appropriate and fair payments. (Zulkepli, 2012).

1.2.7 Leaking of Tender Information

Upon accepting the tender project, an agreement between the Client and quantity surveyor will be prepared, especially by the government, to prohibit the CQS from sharing or communicating any confidential information received or discovered during the provision of services without prior written consent from the government or specific instructions. This includes not disclosing recommendations, assessments, opinions, public statements or press releases regarding the services. The CQS is also restricted from using

the deliverables for purposes other than those specified in the agreement. These obligations remain in effect even if the agreement is suspended, terminated, or expired.

According to (Olusola et al., 2016), there have been instances where quantity surveyors have divulged confidential contact information in exchange for financial benefits. Additionally, unethical practices within the profession include providing pricing guidance to contractors during the bidding process and covering up the corrupt activities of senior colleagues.

1.3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1.3.1 Research Design

The research design is the blueprint for a study conducted by a researcher. Choosing the appropriate research approach is crucial as it dictates how data will be gathered (Jilcha Sileyew, 2020). It is essential to clearly define the research method, instrument, population, sample, data collection process, and data analysis techniques to achieve the study's objective.

This study will employ the quantitative research method deemed appropriate for achieving the research objective. Quantitative research is particularly useful in collecting data from a sizable population and testing hypotheses. It is recognized as a scientific approach emphasizing quantifying and analyzing factors to obtain results. In this study, numerical data will be gathered and subjected to statistical analysis to address the study's variables. Thus, the quantitative research approach is well-aligned with the research objective and is considered the most suitable method for obtaining the required data in this study (Apuke, 2017)

According to Jilcha Sileyew (2020), the term "population" refers to the complete set of individuals possessing specific subjects or characteristics of interest to the researcher. In this study, the population under investigation will be quantity surveyors employed in Malaysia, encompassing diverse backgrounds such as consultant firms, contractor firms, and developers.

This paper's research scope includes quantity surveyors working in Malaysia from various backgrounds, such as consultants, contractors, and even developer companies. The targeted respondents will be quantity surveyors who are registered under the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia. According to BQSM, the total number of populations of quantity surveyors is 4485. According to the sampling table by Krejcie & Morgan (1970), the sample size for this study can be determined. It is proven that the sample size is 354.

1.4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This paper explores the data analysis process undertaken to achieve the research objectives. Various methods were employed to analyze the collected data, including Frequency Distribution Analysis, Mean Analysis, Compare Mean Analysis, and Kruskal-Wallis's test generated by SPSS Software. The results of these analyses include the mean analysis of the consideration level of ethical misconduct among quantity surveyors and the examination of significant differences in the consideration level among quantity surveyors. These findings will be presented in the paper.

1.4.1 Respondent

According to Figure 1, the targeted respondents are classified into different levels of quantity surveyor profession, starting from provisional QS, professional QS, and consultant QS. 66.7% of respondents are registered as Provisional Quantity Surveyors (PVQS), which is 30 out of 45 total samples. Next, 20% of answerers are recorded as Consultant Quantity Surveyors (CQS), which is only 9 out of 45 total samples. Finally, it was provided that 13.33% of respondents are registered as Professional Quantity Surveyors (PQS). Most respondents are registered as Provisional Quantity Surveyors (PVQS).

Figure 1: Distribution of Respondent by Level of Profession

1.4.2 The Consideration Level of Ethical Misconduct among Quantity Surveyors.

Analysis of data gathered from questionnaires to acquire the consideration level of ethical misconduct consists of statements related to supplanting, corruption, bribery, falsification of documents, negligence, unethical payment and leaking of tender information. The collected data is analyzed and conferred using the descriptive analysis method, with the assistance of SPSS software, to obtain the mean analysis of the consideration level of each ethical misconduct mentioned previously.

Findings on this objective show that supplanting emerged as the highest consideration level of ethical misconduct among quantity surveyors, with a mean value of 2.20. This suggests that quantity surveyors have a higher tendency to engage in the unethical practice of supplanting compared to other unethical behaviours. On the other hand, the act of leaking tender information received the lowest mean value of consideration level of ethical misconduct among quantity surveyors, with a value of 1.39. This implies that disclosing tender information garnered the least agreement compared to other ethical misconducts.

Despite supplanting having the highest mean value in terms of consideration level of ethical misconduct, the level of agreement is relatively low, indicating that quantity surveyors disapprove of supplanting. This suggests that targeted respondents understand their professional responsibilities and remain attentive to identifying behaviours that go against the principles and code of ethics.

Nonetheless, it remains challenging to discern the actual ethical decision-making of Quantity Surveyors unless they encounter conflicting situations in their daily practice, mainly when working alongside construction parties with varying interests. In these situations, their ethical principles are genuinely tested and ultimately determined.

In conclusion, the consideration level of ethical misconduct among Quantity Surveyors is relatively low, indicating they have a strong understanding of the principles of conduct. However, when comparing different types of ethical misconduct, it is evident that the act of supplanting has the highest tendency for Quantity Surveyors to engage in compared to other unethical practices.

No.	Ethical Misconduct	Mean Value
1	Supplanting	2.20
2	Negligence	1.88
3	Unethical Payment	1.87
4	Corruption	1.82
5	Falsification of Document	1.72
6	Bribery	1.69
7	Leaking of tender information	1.39

Table 1: Summary of Mean Analysis of the Consideration Level of Ethical Misconduct among Quantity Surveyors

1.4.3 The Significant Differences in Consideration Level of Ethical Misconduct among Quantity Surveyors

In summary, there are notable differences in opinions and levels of consideration among Quantity Surveyors regarding the act of supplanting. These differences stem from varying interpretations of ethical misconduct within the profession at different levels. Supplanting stands out as the only unethical practice that shows significant variations in agreement levels among Provisional QS, Professional QS, and Consultant QS.

The results of Kruskal-Wallis's test indicate a significant difference (Asymp. Sig. = 0.002) in the extent to which supplanting is considered among different levels of quantity surveyor profession. This provides substantial evidence to reject the null hypothesis and supports the conclusion that there is a significant variance in the agreement level regarding the practice of supplanting across different professional levels. When the value Asymp. Sig is below 0.05, in provides sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis.

As for other ethical misconduct, such as corruption, bribery, negligence, falsification of documents, unethical payment and disclosure of tender information, the results of the Kruskal-Wallis's test indicate no significant difference in consideration level among quantity surveyors. This is because of the value of Asymp. Sig is above 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis is retained.

In conclusion, supplanting is the only ethical misconduct which the null hypothesis needs to be rejected as it shows significant differences in level of agreement; meanwhile, the other unethical practices retained the null hypothesis as it indicates the same level of agreement between different levels of quantity surveyor's profession.

Ethical Misconduct	Significant Differences of Ethical Misconduct Consideration Level among Quantity Surveyors		Decision on Null Hypothesis
	Kruskal Wallis H	Asymp Sig.	
Supplanting	12.401	0.002	Reject
Corruption	1.618	0.445	Retain
Bribery	1.701	0.427	Retain
Falsification of document	3.869	0.144	Retain
Negligence	0.688	0.709	Retain
Unethical Payment	4.241	0.120	Retain
Leaking of Tender Information	2.833	0.243	Retain

Table 2: Summary of Kruskal-Wallis Hypothesis Test

1.5 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, findings on objective 1 highlighted that the findings revealed that supplanting had the highest mean consideration level among quantity surveyors, indicating a greater tendency to engage in this unethical practice compared to other misconducts. On the other hand, leaking tender information had the lowest mean consideration level, suggesting less agreement among quantity surveyors regarding this unethical Behaviour. Despite supplanting the misconduct with the highest mean consideration level, the overall level of agreement was relatively low, indicating disapproval among quantity surveyors. This suggests that respondents have a solid understanding of their professional responsibilities and are vigilant in identifying behaviours that contradict ethical principles and codes. Nevertheless, when comparing

different types of misconduct, supplanting stands out as the Behaviour with the highest tendency for quantity surveyors to engage in compared to other unethical practices.

Findings on objective 2 showed there are notable differences in opinions and levels of consideration among Quantity Surveyors regarding the act of supplanting. These differences arise from varying interpretations of ethical misconduct within the profession at different levels. In conclusion, the findings highlight that supplanting is the only ethical misconduct where the null hypothesis must be rejected due to significant differences in agreement among quantity surveyors. In contrast, the null hypothesis is retained for the other unethical practices, such as corruption, bribery, falsifying of documents, negligence, and unethical payment had no significant differences in the agreement level among quantity surveyors. This indicates a similar level of agreement among quantity surveyors at different professional levels, which disapproves of unethical practices.

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Building Material Prices
March 2024

A COLLABORATION BY CIDB

BCISM is a joint-venture between Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB) and Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM), mandated as the main service provider of centralised building cost information for the industry and its stakeholders.

Disclaimer
Prices presented are extracted from N3C BMP weekly data. Users will have to use their professional judgement to get the best reference out of the pricing information provided. For more frequently analysed, updated and wider range of data, visit n3c.cidb.gov.my

Building Material Prices for March 2024

BCISM Monthly Basic Building Material Prices (BMP) is a compilation of weekly data from National Construction Cost Centre (N3C). This data is published monthly on BCISM official social media channels and official website as one of the free construction cost data resources.

This monthly BMP also shows month-over-month change of building material prices in value and percentage. Head over to **www.bcism.org.my** for more historical monthly BMP data and more comprehensive N3C construction cost data .

Important Update

BCISM has relocated office to the following new address in accordance with the arrangement of Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM).

Bangunan Juruukur, Tingkat 1, 64 & 66, Jalan 52/4, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

Self-collection of online purchases will be at the new address.

Building Cost Information Services Malaysia (BCISM) was founded as a collaboration between CIDB Malaysia and RISM to establish a centralised building cost information platform for the industry and its stakeholders. BCISM was founded in July 2019 to be the main service operator of National Construction Cost Centre (N3C). N3C provides construction cost information to construction industry players in Malaysia, which assist them in the preparation of early cost estimates, cost planning and life cycle costing.

BCISM also conducts market research and publishes market overview and market trend reports as free resources for the industry stakeholders. It is BCISM's mission to publish transparent and equitable construction cost information to the industry stakeholders and ultimately promote competitive, progressive and innovative growth and development of Malaysian construction industry. To find out more about BCISM, visit **www.bcism.org.my**