Maritime Anti-Corruption Network
Wildersgade 14, 1408 Copenhagen, Denmark
macn@macn.dk

Promoting Integrity in Ports:

Port Klang Authority's Initiative to Combat Corruption

By: Raphael Eloy, Junior Associate, Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN)

Date: May 2025

Port Klang Authority's (PKA) anti-corruption initiatives have achieved remarkable success, with reported corrupt requests submitted through the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network's (MACN) Anonymous Incident Reporting System, decreasing 63% from 2020 to 2024. This substantial decline highlights the effectiveness of strategic reforms and collaborative efforts by key stakeholders promoting transparency and integrity within port operations.

In 2023, PKA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with government agencies and industry stakeholders. This agreement set clear expectations for both public and private sector actors operating within the port. The MoU introduced three key programs:

1. **Enhanced Communication Channels** – A system for critical information sharing between stakeholders.
2. **Joint Investigation Platform** – A collaborative approach with authorities to address corruption effectively.
3. **Ethics and Integrity Training** – A program to strengthen capacity building for port officials and reinforce ethical conduct.

Alongside this MoU, PKA also incorporated a corruption-free pledge, integrating interagency agreements and reinforcing a shared commitment to ethical business practices and a zero-tolerance stance on corruption. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and accountability across port operations.

Maritime Anti-Corruption Network
Wildersgade 14, 1408 Copenhagen, Denmark
macn@macn.dk

Measurable Impact

PKA's anti-corruption efforts have already delivered significant results. PKA earned the ISO 37001:2016 Anti-Bribery Management Systems (ABMS) certification in May 2023 and renewed their ISO designation in 2024 and 2025. Moreover, reports submitted anonymously through MACN's system indicate a sharp decline in corrupt demands at Port Klang, with recorded incidents dropping from 136 in 2020 to just 51 in 2024. Notably, most remaining incidents involved minor requests, such as for cigarettes. Additionally, annual internal and external audits track the initiative's success and drive continuous improvements in PKA's operations.

Strengthening Collaboration

PKA has established a strong framework for cooperation between government agencies and private sector stakeholders. This initiative has amplified industry voices—such as terminal operators—during port reform discussions, ensuring smooth communication and alignment among key maritime players in Malaysia.

Regulatory and Operational Reforms

The Malaysian Maritime Single Window (MMSW), launched in April 2024, has played a crucial role in reducing bureaucracy and streamlining documentation processes. By integrating various maritime administrative functions, MMSW minimises opportunities for bribery linked to excessive paperwork and inefficiencies. A second phase of this reform, set for 2025, will introduce enhanced container tracking to improve transparency and prevent discrepancies. These efforts align with Malaysia's commitments to international maritime agreements and industry best practices.

Maritime Anti-Corruption Network
Wildersgade 14, 1408 Copenhagen, Denmark
macn@macn.dk

Key Takeaways

This initiative highlights the importance of collective action and strong leadership in anti-corruption efforts. PKA's approach demonstrates that robust enforcement, stakeholder collaboration, and high-level commitment are critical for success. The **Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)** has played an integral role by providing recommendations, while PKA's top management has been instrumental in driving sustained progress.

Future Goals and Initiatives

Looking ahead, PKA aims to deepen its engagement with industry partners and expand collaborative efforts with MACN and other stakeholders. While employee participation in integrity training is high, further improvement is needed in corruption reporting and internal investigations. To address this, PKA plans to establish an independent integrity unit with dedicated officers to handle such cases.

A Roadmap for Ethical Port Operations

PKA's initiative serves as a model for ethical and transparent port management. To replicate its success, PKA suggests that organisations consider:

1. **Pursuing ISO 37001:2016 ABMS Certification** – Ensuring all corruption risks are identified and effectively addressed.
2. **Implementing a Strong Whistleblower System** – Providing employees with a secure and anonymous platform to report corruption concerns.
3. **Encouraging Public-Private Dialogue** – Strengthening inter-agency collaboration, as seen between PKA and MACC, to reinforce transparency and accountability between both the public and private sector.

What's Next?

PKA's strategy is not merely reactive—opposing unethical demands—it is also proactive, fostering trust, improving efficiency, and embedding integrity into port operations. As part of this effort, MACN and PKA jointly launched the **Port Integrity Campaign** in Port Klang in 2024, focusing on incident reporting and capacity building.

Incident reporting helps identify key stakeholders and enables targeted interventions, aligning with the best national and international practices. By accurately tracking incidents, the campaign can pinpoint areas where additional training is needed. Public-private partnerships play a crucial role in fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing, ensuring that robust training programs and continuous capacity-building efforts drive lasting change in port operations.

PKA's initiative stands as a benchmark for combating corruption in maritime logistics—demonstrating that transparency, collaboration, and technology-driven reforms are essential for a more ethical and efficient global trade network.