

THE DETERMINANTS OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY DISCLOSURE: THE CASE OF MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT-LINKED COMPANIES IN MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

The implementation of Government-Linked Company (GLC) Transformation Program 2005/06 by government is one effort to promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) disclosures among its government-linked companies (GLCs). CSR issues are being stressed in the Silver Book included in the GLC Transformation Manual under the GLC Transformation Program 2005/06. It is questionable as to whether the introduction of the Silver Book really reflects goods prospects for government-linked companies to disclose their CSR, and whether there are any other factors that will influence the GLCs in Malaysia to disclose their CSR. Thus, the objective of this study is to examine whether the introduction of the Silver Book affect the CSR disclosure among Malaysian GLCs as well as to examine the determinants of CSR disclosure, focusing on the profitability, board size and board independence. Multiple linear regression analysis is being used to examine the relationship between all the independent variables and dependent variable. Findings show that there is an increasing trend in CSR disclosure among Malaysian GLCs from year 2011 until 2015. Two variables i.e. board size and board independence has been found to have a significant positive relationship with the CSR disclosure. This study gives implications to various parties such as Malaysian Government, Bursa Malaysia, Security Commission and other relevant parties in to improve CSR awareness, practices, disclosures and quality in GLCs.

Keywords: GLC, CSR disclosure, board size, board independence

INTRODUCTION

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) disclosure is not new in Malaysia. The degree of awareness and engagement in CSR is not at an ignorance stage even though we are not a member of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and only recognized as a developing country (Lo & Yap, 2011). Research by Mohd Ghazali (2007) shows that there is an increase in CSR disclosures in Malaysian companies' annual reports as compared to the previous study done by Andrew, Gul, Guthrie, and Teoh (1989) and Baba & Mohd Hanefah (2001). Change in public concern and awareness on environmental issues make companies in Malaysia provide environmental disclosures within the annual reports (Nik Ahmad, & Sulaiman, 2004; Baba, 2004). According to Abd Rahman, Mohamed Zain and Yaakop Yahaya Al-Haj (2011), the traditional role of company's corporate reporting currently is being extended to social and environmental information, not only to financial

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information. Businesses' roles today also include an element of CSR and accountability and not only restricted to profit making purposes (Mohd Ghazali, 2007).

In Malaysia, Bursa Malaysia has made it mandatory for all listed companies to disclose CSR in their annual reports. Disclosing the social and environmental accounting practices would give better image and reputation to the companies as well as to increase the chances to secure contracts from the the government as it is seen as being socially responsible. CSR helps improve financial performance, enhance brand image and increase the ability to attract and retain the best workplace, contributing to the market value of the company (Said, Hj Zainuddin, & Haron, 2009).

A number of CSR disclosure researches in Malaysia concerned with the determinants, level, theme and the form of disclosures (Baba & Mohd Hanefah, 2001; Mohd Ghazali, 2007; Saleh, 2009; Abd Rahman et al., 2011; Lassaad & Khamoussi, 2012); the current state, nature, quality and quantity of disclosures (Jaffar, Jamaludin, & Che Abdul Raman, 2007; Ribeiro & Aibar-Guzman 2010; Sibao & Huaer, 2009; Lo & Yap, 2011); to examine the determinants of CSR disclosures among public listed companies (PLCs) in Malaysia (Baba & Mohd Hanefah, 2001; Said et al., 2009; Al Arussi, Selamat, & Hanefah, 2009).

Issues concerning social and environmental matters have become more important in Malaysia nowadays. Companies should be aware of this responsibility and take action to ensure that they fulfill their obligations, role and status to the public (Baba, 2004). Companies will seek legitimacy if they are aware of the changes in public perception and awareness of the business to be socially responsible (Haider, 2010). In order to protect the companies self-interest, the disclosures would show their positive contribution thereby improving the companies' image and reputation as well as legitimize their activities and managing the society.

The government also emphasizes that its controlled companies, GLCs, to be actively participate in the social and environmental responsibility, despite the growing pressures on the PLCs to be socially and environmentally responsible (Abd Rahman et al., 2011). The implementation of GLC Transformation Program 2005/06 by government is one effort to promote the CSR disclosures among GLCs. CSR issues are being stressed in the Silver Book, one of the initiatives included in the GLC Transformation Manual under the GLC Transformation Program 2005/06 (Esa & Mohd Ghazali, 2012), and Khazanah Nasional Berhad, a key Government-Linked Investment Companies (GLIC), was tasked with the responsibility of monitoring Malaysian GLCs on the implementation of the CSR (Ching & Wad, 2009). It is questionable, however, as to whether the introduction of the Silver Book really reflects goods prospects for GLCs to disclose their CSR, and whether there are any other factors that will influence the GLCs in Malaysia to disclose their CSR.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Siregar and Bachtiar (2010), board size has a positive and non-linear (quadratic and concave) relationship with CSR. This indicated larger board will be able to exercise better monitoring, but too large board will make the monitoring process ineffective. Firm size was found to have a positive effect on CSR, indicated that larger firms have more resources to devote to social activities and a larger asset base over which to spread the costs

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of social responsibility. In addition, larger firms also face more pressure to disclose their social activities for various groups in society.

A study by Mulyadi and Anwar (2012) that investigated the relationship between corporate governance and CSR disclosure of listed corporation in Indonesia Stock Exchange, focused on institutional ownership and independence of board toward the CSR disclosure. They developed CSR disclosure index based on Global Reporting Initiatives (GRI) indicators as a measurement of CSR disclosure. The study found that board independence and institutional ownership did not have influence to corporate CSR disclosure, while profitability was influential to corporate CSR disclosure at 1% significant.

A study by Esa and Mohd Ghazali (2012) in Malaysia investigated the change in the level of CSR disclosure among Malaysian GLCs for the years 2005 and 2011. The study also investigated whether corporate governance attributes influence CSR disclosure in corporate annual reports of Malaysian GLCs. Results from paired-sample t-tests showed that there was an increase in the extent of CSR disclosure at the 1 percent level, and multiple regression analysis revealed that board size was positively associated and statistically significant with the extent of CSR disclosure at the 1 percent level. The results implied that level of CSR disclosures increase after the introduction of the Silver Book in 2006, and GLCs with a larger board size disclosed significantly more CSR information than others in the sense that boards with more members with diverse experience and backgrounds exposed more healthier and livelier discussion on corporate social activities and hence improved investment in those activities.

Profitability

Profitability is the ability of company to earn profit or gain that would sustain the company's long-term and short-term growth (Lucyanda & Siagian, 2012). One of the factors enabling management to disclose CSR activity in high level of flexibility is profitability (Mulyadi & Anwar, 2012). According to Abd Rahman et al. (2011), high gap between the minimum and maximum values on profitability ratio indicating that certain companies are enjoying a good financial performance while some are not and their study found that profitability do not have any relationship with the level of CSR disclosure among Malaysian GLCs. Esa and Mohd Ghazali (2012) also found that there is no relationship between profitability and CSR disclosure. Pressure to disclose CSR is more influenced by "public" rather than "economic" pressure (Esa & Mohd Ghazali, 2012). Said et al. (2009) on the other hand found that there is a significant positive relationship between profitability and the extent of CSR disclosure in Malaysian non-financial companies. This may due to the reason that profitable firms may have larger profit base to reach the costs of social responsibility and have more resources to allocate to social activities. More profitable firms would support more extensive social responsibility programs than less profitable firms because they have supplementary funds to do so (Luethge & Han, 2012). Furthermore, management of profitable firms has more flexibility and there would be lack of restrictions to engage in and to disclose the social activities (Siregar & Bachtiar, 2010).

Board Size

According to MCCG (revised 2011), every board should examine its size, with a view to determine the impact of the number upon its effectiveness and the board should include a

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balance of executive directors and non-executive directors (including independent non-executives) such that no individual or small group of individuals can dominate the board's decision making. As stated in the Green Book of the GLC Transformation Manual, board structure and board composition is the foundation of board effectiveness. To ensure that the board can effectively discharge its roles and responsibilities, there must be a sufficient number of directors held on the board. The size also should not become too large and unwieldy, which could then compromise board dynamics and the accountability of individual directors.

Vafeas (2000) proposes that a smaller board size can enhance the quality of financial reporting and, hence give better quality of information, while a larger board is expected to be less effective, as the monitoring responsibility will be dispersed among many directors. This may be because of the possibility that small board has better discussion of financial reporting numbers among their members as compared to a large board (Mohamad, Abdul Rashid, & Shawtari, 2012). According to Siregar and Bachtiar (2010), larger board will be able to exercise better monitoring, but too large board will make the monitoring process ineffective. Esa and Mohd Ghazali (2012) found that board size positively associated and statistically significant with the extent of CSR disclosure among Malaysian GLCs. It shows that GLCs with a larger board size disclosed significantly more CSR information than others. They suggests that boards with more members have diverse experience and backgrounds so that they are more exposed to healthier and livelier discussion on corporate social activities and hence make more investment in those activities. On the contrary, Said et al. (2009) found that there is no relationship between board size and CSR disclosure.

Board Independence

MCCG (2012) strengthening the role of board by reinforcing the board independence. According to the MCCG (2012), the board should undertake an assessment of its independent directors annually and there must be majority of independence directors sit on the board. The Green Book in GLC Transformation Manual further provides that there should be no more than two Executive Directors and at least one-third of board is independence because a board with a balanced composition will ensure that no individual or small group of individuals will dominate decision-making.

Independent directors contribute to a good reporting system and when the investors observe that a firm has independent directors they believe that there is a monitoring function that is independent from the management to ensure such good reporting system (Siagian & Tresnaningsih, 2011). Conversely, Esa and Mohd Ghazali (2012) argue that independent directors are a cost-efficient substitute for information disclosure. They found that larger proportion of independence directors disclose less CSR. Eng and Mak (2003) also found the same result where the higher the proportion of independence directors, the lower the information disclosed. Said et al. (2009) in their study does not found any relationship between board independence and the disclosure of CSR.

Firm Size

Firm size is considered as a control variable because it has been found to influence the CSR disclosures. According to Aldama, Amar and Trostianki (2009), size of the company is strongly associated with the CSR structuring and CSR strategies in terms of its employees

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and revenues. Larger company has bigger chance to find a structured area and tend to declare more sustainable development-related policies. Since large companies have the more resources to collect, analyze and report data, they tend to disclose more information than small size companies (Al-Shubiri et al., 2012). Larger companies are supposed to disclose more CSR information in order to expose or portray their corporate citizenship, in so doing legitimizing their existence (Mohd Ghazali, 2011). The firm size for Malaysian GLCs is a significant item to measure the disclosure of CSR information (Abd Rahman et al., 2011). Nevertheless, study by Bayoud, Kavanagh, & Slaughter (2012) found that levels of CSR disclosure do not seem to be affected by company size in Libyan companies.

Legitimacy Theory

Legitimacy is a generalized perception or assumption that the actions of an entity are desirable, proper, or appropriate within some socially constructed system of norms, values, beliefs, and definitions (Suchman, 1995, p. 574). Legitimacy theory is used as a communication mechanism to inform or manipulate the perceptions of the firm's actions. Islam and Deegan (2008) state that legitimacy theory asserts that organisations attempt to ensure that their activities are perceived by outside parties as being legitimate in order to ensure that they are perceived as operating within the bounds and norms of their respective societies. Besides that, legitimacy theory posits that businesses are bound by the social contract in which the firms agree to perform various socially desired actions in return for approval of its objectives and other rewards, and this ultimately guarantees its continued existence. Thus, firms use communication or accounting to defend or maintain their legitimacy in the eyes of the society.

According to Islam and Deegan (2010), there is a 'social contract' between an organization and the society (societies) in which it operates, and there will be some negative implications for the ongoing survival of the organization if there is any breach of the social contract. In a sense management seeks congruence between the outside perceptions of its own organization's social values and what is deemed by society to be appropriate social conduct, management seeks to maintain or establish its legitimacy (Deegan & Gordon, 1996). Observer groups such as audiences or relevant publics evaluate the organization based on their perceptions and assumptions regarding congruence between their values and organizational values and if the relevant audiences are not aware of the divergence, that organization may materially diverge from expectations and still maintain its legitimacy (Mobus, 2005). In addition, O'Sullivan and O'Dwyer (2009) emphasize that accountability and moral legitimacy pay attention to the societal values and expectations from an organizational perspective. In a nutshell, company should provide CSR information by reporting the CSR activities to the society and behave according to the legitimacy theory in order to remain competitive and survive in the market, as well as to make itself accountable to the public and society.

HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

Singhvi and Desai (1971) argue that when the company achieves a high margin of profit and there is a high rate of return, the managerial groups are motivated to disclose more information in order to show off good reputation to the consumers, shareholders, investors and other stakeholders. Contrary, if the company suffers losses or there is a low rate of

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return, the managerial groups may disclose less information in order to cover the reasons for such losses or declining profits (Al Arussi et al., 2009). One of the factors enabling management to disclose CSR activity in high level of flexibility is profitability (Mulyadi & Anwar, 2012).

However, literature shows that the results on the association between profitability and CSR disclosure were mixed. Mohamed Zain and Janggu (2006), Jaffar et al. (2007) and Said et al. (2009) found that there is a positive association between profitability and CSR disclosure, while Abdul Rahman et al. (2015) and Esa and Mohd Ghazali (2012) found that there is a no association or relationship between profitability and CSR disclosure. They found that profitability does not influence CSR disclosure made by companies. Due to the mixed findings, the first hypothesis will be as follows:

H1: There is a significant relationship between profitability and CSR disclosure among GLCs in Malaysia.

One of the most important elements of corporate governance mechanism is a board of directors who has the role to oversee and ensure that agents have properly managed the business (Said et al., 2009). MCGG (revised 2011) does not state the exact number on how many directors should be on the board to ensure the effectiveness but it suggests that there should be a balance between executive and non-executive directors on the board. The Green Book in the GLC Transformation Manual also does not state on the appropriate number, however, in order to ensure board can effectively discharge its roles and responsibilities, there must be a sufficient number of directors held on the board, where it should not become too large and unwieldy, which could then compromise board dynamics and the accountability of individual directors. Research regarding the investigation of the relationship between board size and CSR disclosure is rarely conducted (Esa & Mohd Ghazali, 2012). Only few researches have focus on this factor (board size). Siregar and Bachtiar (2010) and Esa and Mohd Ghazali (2012) in their study found that there is a positive relationship between board size and CSR disclosure. Their findings show that larger board size has higher influence on CSR disclosure, as larger board size exercises better monitoring and controlling function. Said et al. (2009) on contrary do not found any relationship between board size and CSR. The next hypothesis developed is:

H2: There is a significant relationship between board size and CSR disclosure among GLCs in Malaysia.

In corporate governance context, when arriving at board decisions, independent directors are supposed to perform a monitoring role ensuring that shareholders' interests are taken into consideration (Esa & Mohd Ghazali, 2012). The Green Book in GLC Transformation Manual as well as MCGG 2012 encourages companies in Malaysia to have strong independence on board. There should be at least one-third independent directors sit on the board to monitor and provide independent view and judgment. Literature regarding the relationship between board independence and CSR disclosure are found to have a mixed result. Eng and Mak (2003) and Esa and Mohd Ghazali (2012) found a negative relationship between board independence and CSR disclosure whereas Donnelly and Mulcany (2008) found a negative relationship. Said et al. (2009) found no relationship between board independence and CSR disclosure. The mixed findings lead to the following hypothesis:

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H3: There is a significant relationship between board independence and CSR disclosure among GLCs in Malaysia.

Table A: The operationalization of variables

Variables	Abbreviation	Operationalization	Reference
<u>Dependent Variable</u>			
Corporate Social Responsibility Disclosures	CSRSD	Number of words from all four themes i.e. human resources, community, marketplace and environment stated in annual reports	Ng (1985)
<u>Independent Variables</u>			
Profitability	PROFIT	Profit before tax over total assets	Esa and Mohd Ghazali (2012)
Board Size	BSIZE	Total number of directors sit on the board	Said et al. (2009)
Board Independence	IND	Percentage of independent directors to total number of directors sit on the board	Esa and Mohd Ghazali (2012)
<u>Control Variable</u>			
Firm Size	FSIZE	Log10 of total assets	Abd Raman et al. (2015)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design for this study is based on quantitative approach and longitudinal study of which investigate the relationship between CSR disclosures with corporate governance characteristics and firm characteristics. Annual reports for five years starting from year 2011 until 2015 of 16 GLC listed on Bursa Malaysia are taken from the Bursa Malaysia website (www.bursamalaysia.com). This study does not rely on the list of GLCs published on The Putrajaya Committee on GLC High Performance (PCG) website as it is outdated at the time of this writing. The author identify GLCs as Malaysian listed companies with 20% equity shares held by GLICs (Zin & Sulaiman, 2011). The findings of this study was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 22.0. Descriptive statistics will be used to identify the frequency distribution, central tendency (mean, median and mode) and dispersion (maximum, minimum and standard deviation) of all variables. Multiple regression analysis will be used to examine the relationship between the dependent variable i.e. CSR disclosures and the independent variables i.e. firm characteristics and corporate governance characteristics. Multiple regression analysis is used to find the result of all hypotheses developed in this study. The regression model of this study is as follows:

$$CSRSD = \beta_0 + \beta_1PROFIT + \beta_2BSIZE + \beta_3IND + \beta_4FSIZE + \varepsilon$$

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Where:

CSRD = total CSR disclosures

β_0 = intercept coefficient, when all other independent variables are zero

PROFIT = profit before tax over total assets

BSIZE = total number of directors sit on the board

IND = percentage of independent directors to total number of directors sit on the board

FSIZE = log10 of total assets

ε = standard normal, randomly distributed error term

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive statistics is executed to describe and summarize the characteristics of the sample. Tables presented below show the descriptive results for all variables utilized in this study based on the corporate annual report from year 2015 until 2015. Tables below report the minimum, maximum, mean and standard deviation.

Table B: Descriptive Statistics of firm's characteristics, corporate governance characteristics and control variable

<i>Variables</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>
<i>2015</i>					
PROFIT	16	0.006	17.115	1.18419	4.250660
BSIZE	16	6	12	9.19	1.515
IND	16	0.300	0.625	0.47638	0.097712
FSIZE	16	8.36	10.94	9.5412	0.73186
<i>2012</i>					
PROFIT	16	0.004	14.229	0.93869	3.544552
BSIZE	16	6	12	9.19	1.601
IND	16	0.286	0.778	0.46588	0.124154
FSIZE	16	8.34	10.80	9.6152	0.65384
<i>2013</i>					
PROFIT	16	0.004	1.608	0.14481	0.393101
BSIZE	16	6	13	9.38	1.857
IND	16	0.300	0.778	0.49500	0.115590
FSIZE	16	8.38	11.11	9.7018	0.72616
<i>2014</i>					
PROFIT	16	0.009	19.270	1.26763	4.800925
BSIZE	16	6	15	9.69	2.301

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IND	16	0.273	0.778	0.51038	0.124858
FSIZE	16	8.40	10.84	9.6857	0.62399
<i>2015</i>					
PROFIT	16	0.004	15.533	1.11094	3.856695
BSIZE	16	6	12	9.25	1.880
IND	16	0.333	0.778	0.50306	0.134819
FSIZE	16	8.47	10.82	9.7273	0.61960

Note: PROFIT = profitability measured by profit before tax over total assets; BSIZE = board size measured by total number of directors sit on the board; IND = board independence measured by percentage of independent directors to total directors sit on the board; FSIZE = firm size measured by log10 of total assets.

Table B presents the descriptive statistics for all independence variables i.e. firm characteristics and corporate governance characteristics as well as the control variable used in this study. The results show that the worst profitability that Malaysian GLCs obtain is in year 2013 because the minimum profitability is 0.004% and the maximum profitability is only 1.608%, while the optimum profitability that Malaysian GLCs obtain is in year 2014 where the minimum profitability is 0.009% and the maximum profitability is 19.270%. The results also show that mean or average profitability for Malaysian GLCs reduce from year 2011 to year 2012 and 2013, but increase back in year 2014. In year 2015, the average profitability decrease by 0.157% from the previous year.

The table also explains descriptive statistics including the minimum, maximum, mean and standard deviation for corporate governance characteristics in Malaysian GLCs. In term of board size, the results show that over the five years period studied, the minimum number of directors sit on Malaysian GLCs board is 6 while the maximum number of directors sit on Malaysian GLCs board is 15. In average, there are 9 directors sit on the board of Malaysian GLCs.

In term of board independence, the results indicate that not all Malaysian GLCs follow the guideline in the Green Book where there should be one-third of independent directors sit on the board to ensure the independence on the board. In average, the results show that there is no slight different in the percentage of independent directors sit on the board for the five consecutive years.

Finally, firm size as a control variable, the results show that there is slightly similar in term of size of the GLCs in Malaysia for the five consecutive years, in which the biggest size is 11.11 comes from year 2013. In average, these indicate that Malaysian GLCs are almost similar in size when they are measured in term of total assets held by the companies.

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Table C: Descriptive Statistics of corporate social responsibility disclosures by general themes

	<i>N</i>	<i>Sum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>
<i>2011</i>						
Human Resource	16	4062	0	873	253.88	283.257
Community	16	4789	117	2970	1093.13	907.319
Marketplace	16	2024	0	780	126.50	231.454
Environment	16	3608	0	879	225.50	248.012
CSR	16	14483	245	4178	1699.00	1298.358
<i>2012</i>						
Human Resource	16	3986	0	1703	535.88	578.776
Community	16	6476	180	3145	880.75	758.435
Marketplace	16	2351	0	1265	226.00	411.919
Environment	16	5340	0	975	333.75	298.599
CSR	16	18153	180	5823	1976.38	1634.691
<i>2013</i>						
Human Resource	16	5958	0	1386	459.00	392.190
Community	16	6951	172	2020	805.38	612.862
Marketplace	16	2604	0	754	162.75	193.735
Environment	16	3808	0	1934	471.06	575.318
CSR	16	19321	172	5201	1898.19	1305.388
<i>2014</i>						
Human Resource	16	4881	0	5108	910.19	1231.643
Community	16	3087	279	9919	1859.56	2347.310
Marketplace	16	3556	0	2741	393.56	670.988
Environment	16	5414	0	2278	689.00	659.766
CSR	16	16938	352	20046	3852.31	4629.711
<i>2015</i>						
Human Resource	16	5636	0	3622	785.44	839.297
Community	16	4564	248	6052	1737.31	1921.979
Marketplace	16	3364	0	2212	348.50	557.659
Environment	16	4614	0	1805	653.06	548.301
CSR	16	18178	344	13129	3524.31	3164.919

Table C presents the frequency analysis for CSR disclosures by four general themes i.e. human resources, community, marketplace and environment as well as the total CSR disclosures from year 2011 until year 2015. It shows that the highest CSR disclosure in year 2011 is under community theme, while the lowest disclosure is under marketplace theme. The highest CSR disclosure in year 2012 is under community theme, while the lowest

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disclosure is under marketplace theme, same with the previous year. In year 2013, the highest CSR disclosure is under community theme, while the lowest disclosure is under marketplace theme, same also with the previous years. In year 2014, the highest CSR disclosure is under environment theme, but in average is under community theme. The lowest disclosure is again found to be under marketplace theme, same with the previous years. Lastly, in year 2015, the highest CSR disclosure is under human resources theme, but in average is under community theme. The lowest disclosure is still under marketplace theme, same with the previous years. Overall, the result indicates that the introduction of the Silver Book really reflect a CSR disclosure among Malaysian GLCs.

Correlation

Correlation measures the strength, direction and significant relationship between independent and dependent variables. According to Pallant (2011), multicollinearity may be a problem when the correlation exceeded 0.7. Hence, to verify for multicollinearity problem, Table D below shows the result of the correlation matrix.

Table D: Spearman's Correlations Coefficient Matrix

	CSRD	PROFIT	BSIZE	IND	FSIZE
CSRD	1.000	.187	.440**	.196	.372**
PROFIT		1.000	.217	.157	-.194
BSIZE			1.000	.197	.255*
IND				1.000	.093
FSIZE					1.000

Note: PROFIT = profitability measured by profit before tax over total assets; BSIZE = board size measured by total number of directors sit on the board; IND = board independence measured by percentage of independent directors to total directors sit on the board; FSIZE = firm size measured by log10 of total assets.

As shown in Table D, CSRD is significantly positive correlated with BSIZE at 0.440 and FSIZE at 0.372. Therefore, it can be concluded that multicollinearity is not a serious problem, and the use of parametric statistical analysis such as regression analysis for all variables is considered appropriate for this study.

Regression Analysis

Table E below summarizes the regression analysis results for the data of the relationship between the dependent variable i.e. corporate social responsibility disclosure (CSRD) and the independent variables i.e. profitability (PROFIT), board size (BSIZE), and board independence (IND).

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Table E: Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

	Variables	Coefficients	Significant (T-Stat)	P-value
Dependent Variable	CSRD			
Independent Variables	(Constant)	1.709	0.66	0.511
	PROFITABILITY	3.250	1.992	0.055
	BSIZE	0.097	1.604	0.043*
	IND	1.326	1.466	0.037*
Control Variable	FSIZE	0.108	0.503	0.116
	N	80		
	R ²	0.179		
	Adjusted R ²	0.169		
	F-value	17.06		
	P-value	0		

*significant at 0.05

Note: PROFIT = profitability measured by profit before tax over total assets; BSIZE = board size measured by total number of directors sit on the board; IND = board independence measured by percentage of independent directors to total directors sit on the board; FSIZE = firm size measured by log10 of total assets.

Table E shows that F-value for the data is statistically not significant at the 1 percent level where the p-value is 17.060 (more than 0.05). It indicates that the independent variables in this study are not significant to measure the dependent variable. The R² is 0.179 and the adjusted R² is 0.169. It can be concluded that 17.9% variance in corporate social responsibility disclosure (CSR) is explained by all the independent variables i.e. PROFIT, BSIZE, IND and another 82.1% variance in CSR might be explained by the other factors or variables that have not been used in this study. Referring to the P-value, there are only two variables that make a statistically significant contribution (less than 0.05) toward CSR which are BSIZE and IND, where the highest coefficient value is IND (p = 0.037). Both BSIZE (Beta = 0.097) and IND (Beta = 1.326) were found significantly positive correlated with the corporate social responsibility disclosure. This suggests that bigger board size has various background, skill and experience to promote CSR, thus lead to higher level of CSR disclosure, and higher proportion of independent directors sit on the board will have stronger monitoring control, thus lead to higher level of CSR disclosure among Malaysian GLCs.

Based on the results tabulated in Table E above, the regression model for corporate social responsibility disclosure in relation to firm' characteristics and corporate governance characteristics can be expressed as follows:

$$\text{CSR} = 1.709 - 3.250(\text{PROFIT}) + 0.097(\text{BSIZE}) + 1.326(\text{IND}) + 0.108(\text{FSIZE}) + \varepsilon$$

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This model suggests that CSR disclosure among GLCs in Malaysia could be significantly enhanced by increasing the number of directors sit on the board as well as increasing the involvement of independent directors sit on the board.

Relationship between profitability and CSR disclosure

The above result shows that there is no significant relationship between profitability and CSR disclosure. Therefore, hypothesis H₁ is rejected. This result is consistent with Abdul Rahman et al. (2015) and Said et al. (2009). It indicates that profitability does not influence the CSR disclosure made by Malaysian GLCs.

Relationship between board size and CSR disclosure

The regression result shows that board size has significant positive relationship with the CSR disclosure. It indicates that large number of directors sit on the board provide better disclosure of CSR. Whereas, small number of directors sit on the board lead to weaker disclosure of CSR in Malaysian GLCs annual reports. Hence, hypothesis H₄ is supported. This result is parallel with the results of previous studies conducted by the other researchers (Siregar & Bachtiar, 2010; Esa & Mohd Ghazali, 2012). This result indicates that larger board size is more effective and having various background, skills and knowledge enhance the disclosure of CSR activities in the company's annual reports.

Relationship between board independence and CSR disclosure

Based on the table above, there is a significant positive relationship between board independence and CSR disclosure. It shows that higher proportion of independence directors over total number of directors sit on the board provide greater CSR disclosure. On contrary, lower proportion of independence directors over total number of directors sit on the board lead to the smaller amount of CSR disclosed by Malaysian GLCs in their annual reports. Therefore, hypothesis H₅ is supported. This result is consistent with Eng and Mak (2003) and Esa and Mohd Ghazali (2012). It indicates that higher percentage of independent directors sit on the board would enhance the monitoring and controlling function so that companies would provide sufficient disclosure on the CSR information to public and all stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

Malaysian government has made it mandatory for all public listed companies (PLCs) in Malaysia to report and disclose their CSR. In order to protect interest of all stakeholders, there is a need for a company to report their social responsibility. Reporting CSR will enhance public confidence and give better image and reputation for the companies. Malaysian GLCs, whose majority shares are owned by government also, need to report and disclose their CSR to obtain such benefits. As what has been presented in the descriptive analysis, the trend of CSR disclosure in Malaysian GLCs is increasing over the years, indicating that Malaysian GLCs are become more and more concern about their social responsibility in term of human resources, community, marketplace and environmental matters, which the most focus is on the community matters such as education, disaster relief, charity, sports and cultures. The increasing trend of disclosure also proves that the

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introduction of the Silver Book really reflect a better CSR disclosure among Malaysian GLCs. Also, CSR disclosure made by Malaysian GLCs is influenced by certain corporate governance characteristics i.e. board size and board independence. Firm characteristics on the other hand do not influence the CSR disclosure made by Malaysian GLCs.

Accordingly, higher number of directors sits on the board increase the level of CSR disclosure due to the excessively skills and experience to improve CSR awareness in the companies. Higher percentages of independence directors sit on the board also increase the level of CSR disclosure because monitoring and controlling function are enhanced through the higher level of independence. In addition, although different firm or company has different characteristics, there is nothing to do with the level of CSR disclosure.

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