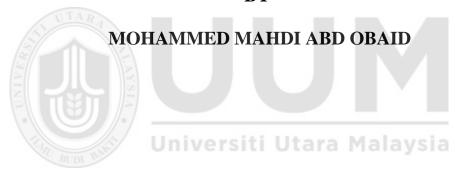
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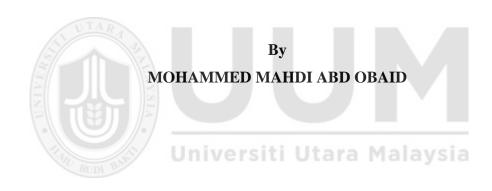
# CORRUPTION AND TAX NON-COMPLIANCE MODEL: AN INVESTIGATION ON INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS IN YEMEN

# $\mathbf{BY}$



# MASTER OF SCIENCE (INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING) UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA MAY 2017

# CORRUPTION AND TAX NON-COMPLIANCE MODEL: AN INVESTIGATION ON INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS IN YEMEN



Thesis Submitted to
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(International Accounting)



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## **ABSTRACT**

Governments around the world continuously attempt to improve the level of tax compliance especially those in countries which face a high level of tax noncompliance. Yemen is one of these countries in which tax non-compliance has been reported to be at a high level during the last few decades. This study empirically investigates the influence of perception of corruption in the government, tax rate, penalty rate, income level and education level on individual taxpayer's noncompliance behaviour in Yemen. This study is underpinned by the social influence theory, and further supported by the deterrence theory and cognitive learning theory. The data, which were collected through survey questionnaires, were analysed using multiple regression analysis and other statistical techniques. A total of 400 questionnaires were distributed that yielded 264 usable questionnaires. The results reveal that there is a positively significant relationship between perception of corruption in the government, tax rate and penalty rate and tax non-compliance, whereas the relationship between income level and tax non-compliance is negatively significant and the relationship between education level and tax non-compliance is insignificant. This study concludes with the theoretical implications and practical recommendations for the Yemeni Government in order to improve tax collection such as to develop and implement more stringent enforcement strategies to combat corruption in the administration and improve the tax system in terms of penalty rate and tax rates. In addition, the Yemen Tax Authority should play a more proactive role to encourage and educate individual taxpayers by enhancing their knowledge on taxation. This study also highlights several limitations and suggests future studies that can be conducted in this area.

Keywords: taxation, non-compliance, corruption, individual taxpayers, Yemen

## **ABSTRAK**

Kerajaan di seluruh dunia secara berterusan cuba untuk meningkatkan tahap pematuhan cukai terutamanya di negara-negara yang menghadapi ketidakpatuhan cukai yang tinggi. Yaman adalah salah sebuah daripada negaranegara di mana ketidakpatuhan cukai telah dilaporkan berada pada tahap yang tinggi dalam tempoh beberapa dekad yang lalu. Kajian ini secara empirikal menyiasat pengaruh persepsi rasuah dalam kerajaan, kadar cukai, kadar penalti, tahap pendapatan dan tahap pendidikan ke atas tingkah laku ketidakpatuhan pembayar cukai individu di Yaman. Kajian ini disokong oleh teori pengaruh sosial, dan turut disokong oleh teori pencegahan dan teori pembelajaran kognitif. Data yang dikumpulkan melalui soal selidik dianalisa menggunakan analisis regresi berganda dan teknik-teknik statistik yang lain. Sebanyak 400 soal selidik telah diedarkan yang menghasilkan 264 soal selidik yang boleh digunapakai. Dapatan menunjukkan bahawa terdapat hubungan positif yang signifikan di antara persepsi rasuah dalam kerajaan, kadar cukai dan kadar penalti dan ketidakpatuhan cukai, manakala hubungan antara tahap pendapatan dan ketidakpatuhan cukai adalah negatif yang signifikan dan hubungan antara tahap pendidikan dan ketidakpatuhan cukai adalah tidak signifikan. Kajian ini merumuskan implikasi teori dan cadangan praktikal untuk Kerajaan Yaman bagi meningkatkan kutipan cukai seperti membangunkan dan melaksanakan strategi penguatkuasaan yang lebih ketat untuk memerangi rasuah dalam pentadbiran dan memperbaiki sistem cukai dari segi kadar penalti dan kadar cukai. Di samping itu, pihak berkuasa cukai Yaman perlu memainkan peranan yang lebih proaktif untuk menggalakkan dan mendidik pembayar cukai individu bagi meningkatkan pengetahuan mereka mengenai percukaian. Kajian ini juga menjelaskan beberapa batasan dan mencadangkan kajian pada masa depan yang boleh dijalankan dalam bidang ini.

Kata kunci: cukai, ketidakpatuhan, rasuah, pembayar cukai individu, Yaman

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CLT Cognitive Learning Theory

COAC Central Organization of Audit &Control

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GST General Sales Tax

KMO Kaser-Meyer-Olkin

MPIC Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation

PD Presidential Decree

SAS Self-Assessment System

SPSS Statistical Package for Social Sciences

TIQN Transparency International's Quarterly Newsletter

UNDP United Nations Development Program

USD United States Dollar

VIF Variance Inflation Factor

YER Yemeni Rial

YTA Yemen Tax Authority

# CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 Background of the Study

Tax is considered as a crucial instrument and primary source of revenue for most governments. Specifically, tax revenue is needed to finance critical programmes (e.g., health care, education); services (e.g., law enforcement, public utilities); and infrastructure (e.g., road construction, environmental protection), which are beneficial to the society (Worlu & Nkoro, 2012). It is worth mentioning that tax revenues are considered to be an important source of Yemen's national income after oil (Al-Faseel, 2014).

Tax revenue is clearly stated in the final accounts of the State's General Budget for each fiscal year. Figure 1.1 shows Yemen's tax revenue, specifically during the period of 2008 to 2013. It is noted that the total tax revenue shows a steady increase, reaching the amount of USD 1.7 billion in 2008 and increasing to USD 1.9 billion and USD 2.1 billion in 2009 and 2010, respectively. In 2011, it shows a decrease to USD 1.8 billion because of street protests (Arab spring). Tax revenue totalled USD 2.6 billion and USD 2.9 billion in 2012 and 2013, respectively (Ministry of Finance, 2008-2013).

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