



## WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

### NORTHPORT (MALAYSIA) BHD

Company No. 198501014394 (146850-A)

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For any enquiries, please contact the Internal Audit Department.

## NMB Whistleblowing Policy

### Table of Contents

Sections	Contents	Page
1.0	POLICY STATEMENT	1
2.0	DEFINITIONS	1
3.0	OBJECTIVES	3
4.0	SCOPE OF POLICY	3
5.0	LIMITATIONS	3
6.0	DISCLOSURE OF IMPROPER CONDUCT	4
7.0	ANONYMOUS REPORTS	5
8.0	TO WHOM SHOULD DISCLOSURES BE MADE	5
9.0	TRACKING OF IMPROPER CONDUCT REPORTS	5
10.0	SCREENING	6
11.0	CONDUCT OF INVESTIGATION	7
12.0	INVESTIGATION REPORT (IR)	8
13.0	REFERRAL TO EXTERNAL ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY	8
14.0	TIMELINE	8
15.0	PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION	9
16.0	RECORD SAFEKEEPING	9
17.0	PROTECTION OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER	10
18.0	REVOCATION OF WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION	11
19.0	OVERSIGHT & OWNERSHIP OF POLICY	11
Appendix 1	FLOWCHART	i
Appendix 2	IMPROPER CONDUCT DISCLOSURE FORM	ii
Appendix 3	DETRIMENTAL ACTION COMPLAINT FORM	iii

## 1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 An important aspect of accountability and transparency is a mechanism to enable staff and other members of the Company to voice genuine concerns in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- 1.2 Northport (Malaysia) Bhd (the Company) is committed to promoting and maintaining high standards of transparency, accountability, ethics and integrity at the workplace.
- 1.3 This Policy is designed to support the Company's **Integrity, Customer Focus, Innovation, Teamwork and Excellence (InCITE)** values and facilitate employees' and third parties' concerns about possible improprieties at the earliest opportunity to ensure that concerns can be raised without fear of reprisal or Detrimental Action.
- 1.4 The procedures contained in this Policy provide a process of managing disclosures of improper conduct that is transparent without compromising the confidentiality of persons involved.
- 1.5 This Policy is adapted to promote alignment with the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010, Companies Act 2016, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009 and MACC (Amendment) Act 2018, Capital Market and Services Act 2007, Personal Data Protection Act 2010 and all applicable laws and regulations in Malaysia. However, this Policy does not absolve employees and stakeholders from any statutory obligations contained in any Act and/or Regulation to report criminal offences and/or breaches of law with the relevant enforcement agencies.
- 1.6 This Policy is to be read together with the Company's Code of Ethics, Company's Anti-Bribery Anti-Corruption Policy & Framework, Company's Employee Terms and Condition, the Company's Collective Agreements, procedures as set out in the Company's *Polisi dan Prosedur Tata tertib, Pelanggaran Kontrak, Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan dan Gangguan Seksual di Tempat Kerja* and other internal, statutory or regulatory reporting procedures.

## 2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **"Whistleblowing"** is the disclosure of Improper Conduct based on one's reasonable belief that any person has engaged, is engaging or preparing to engage in Improper Conduct. This applies even in circumstances where information regarding Improper Conduct is supposed to be treated as confidential.

However, this excludes the disclosure of matters covered by the Official Secrets Act or prohibited by any written law.

- 2.2 **"Whistleblower"** is a person who discloses information of Improper Conduct in accordance with this Policy.

- 2.3 **“Improper Conduct”** is any conduct which if proved, constitutes a serious Disciplinary Offence or a criminal offence. Improper Conduct includes, but are not limited to, the following:
- a) criminal offences, unlawful acts, fraud, corruption, bribery and blackmail;
  - b) failure to comply with legal or regulatory obligations;
  - c) misuse of the Company's funds or assets;
  - d) an act or omission which creates a substantial and specific danger to the lives, health or safety of the employees or the public or the environment;
  - e) unsafe work practices or substantial wasting of company resources;
  - f) abuse of power by an officer of the Company; and
  - g) concealment of any of the above.
- 2.4 **“Appointed Officer”** means authorised person appointed to receive reports on Whistleblowing matters.
- 2.5 **“Disciplinary Offence”** means any action or omission which constitutes a breach of discipline in the Company as provided by law or the Company's code of conduct, code of ethics, policies and/or a contract of employment, as the case may be.
- 2.6 **“Detrimental Action”** includes:
- a) action causing injury, loss and/or damage;
  - b) intimidation and/or harassment;
  - c) interference with the lawful employment or livelihood of any person, including discrimination, discharge, demotion, suspension, disadvantage, termination or adverse treatment in relation to a person's employment, career, profession, trade or business or the taking of the disciplinary action; and
  - d) the threat to take any of the actions referred to above.
- 2.7 **“Confidential Information”** includes:
- a) information about the identity, occupation, residential address, work address or whereabouts of:
    - i) a Whistleblower; and
    - ii) a person against whom a Whistleblower has made a disclosure of Improper Conduct;
  - b) information disclosed by a Whistleblower; and

- c) information that, if disclosed, may cause detriment to any person.

2.8 **“Investigating Officer”** means the person appointed to investigate an Improper Conduct.

### **3.0 OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The objectives of this Policy are as follows:

- a) to provide employees and third parties with proper internal procedures in disclosing cases of Improper Conduct;
- b) to manage disclosures of Improper Conduct in an appropriate and timely manner;
- c) to provide protection to Whistleblowers from Detrimental Action that may result from the disclosure of Improper Conduct;
- d) to provide fair treatment to both the Whistleblower and the alleged wrongdoer when a disclosure of Improper Conduct is made; and
- e) to set out the processes to manage the overall system and implementation of the Whistleblowing Policy. The flow chart of the processes is attached in **Appendix 1**.

### **4.0 SCOPE OF POLICY**

- 4.1 This Policy applies to Company’s directors and employees, including employees on contract terms, temporary or short-term employees and employees on secondment.
- 4.2 An Improper Conduct Report may be made by a director, employee or external party who has knowledge of or genuinely suspects, on a reasonable belief, that a director or an employee of the Company has engaged, is engaged or is preparing to engage in any Improper Conduct.
- 4.3 Any provision in any contract of employment which purports and/or intends to prevent the making of the disclosure of the implementation of the other provisions of this Policy.
- 4.4 To facilitate due and fair investigation process, any person who discover or suspects any Improper Conduct within the Company, should not attempt to conduct investigations personally or interrogate any suspect.

### **5.0 LIMITATIONS**

- 5.1 This Policy does not however, cover any issues, complaints or concerns in relation to:
  - a) matters which are trivial or frivolous in nature;
  - b) matters which are motivated by malice;

- 5.2 If the complaint is a grievance and not an Improper Conduct, the Grievance guideline stated in the Company's *Polisi dan Prosedur Tata tertib, Pelanggaran Kontrak, Keselamatan dan Kesehatan Pekerjaan dan Gangguan Seksual di tempat Kerja* is to be applied.
- 5.3 For Improper Conduct relating to sexual harassment, the Company's *Polisi dan Prosedur Tata tertib, Pelanggaran Kontrak, Keselamatan dan Kesehatan Pekerjaan dan Gangguan Seksual di tempat Kerja* is to be applied.
- 5.4 If an employee is unsure whether a particular act or omission constitutes a grievance, a sexual harassment or an Improper Conduct under this Policy, he or she is encouraged to seek advice or guidance from their immediate superior or Head of Department/Division, the Head of the Human Capital Division (HCD) or the Head of Internal Audit Department (IAD).

## 6.0 DISCLOSURE OF IMPROPER CONDUCT

- 6.1 A director or an employee or third party who becomes aware of an alleged Improper Conduct is encouraged to make a disclosure as soon as possible.
- 6.2 The Whistleblower needs to demonstrate that he or she has reasonable belief of the Improper Conduct.
- 6.3 In order to give the Company an opportunity to investigate the alleged Improper Conduct and to take necessary internal corrective actions, Whistleblowers are encouraged to lodge a report by providing, to the extent that is possible, the following information:
- a) details of the Whistleblower, the name, designation, contact number and email address;
  - b) details of the director or employee involved in the Improper Conduct;
  - c) description of the Improper Conduct and the people/party (ies) that are involved (to state whether they are director or employees of the Company or external parties);
  - d) details of the Improper Conduct, including the relevant dates of occurrence;
  - e) particulars of witnesses, if any; and
  - f) particulars or production of documentary evidence, if any.
- 6.4 The Improper Conduct Report Form is attached in **Appendix 2**.
- 6.5 A disclosure of Improper Conduct may still be made, subject to section 6.2, although the person making the disclosure is not able to identify a particular person to which the disclosure relates.
- 6.6 When there is more than one disclosure made at a time, the disclosures may be prioritised according to the nature or gravity of the alleged Improper Conduct or reported risks and the magnitude of the repercussions.

## **7.0 ANONYMOUS REPORTS**

- 7.1 Anonymous reports will be considered, and be investigated (if required), after considering the seriousness and credibility of the allegations and the impact of the allegations if confirmed.

## **8.0 TO WHOM SHOULD DISCLOSURES BE MADE**

- 8.1 A disclosure of Improper Conduct may be made in writing to the Head, Internal Audit Department (Appointed Officer) and the disclosure shall be marked as 'Confidential', at the following address:

**Head, Internal Audit Department  
Northport (Malaysia) Bhd  
Level 3, Northport A Building  
Jalan Pelabuhan, Pelabuhan Utara  
42000 Port Klang, Selangor  
Malaysia**

- 8.2 Disclosure of Improper Conduct may also be reported directly to the NMB Audit Committee Chairman via a sealed envelope marked 'Confidential', at the following address:

**Audit Committee Chairman,  
Northport (Malaysia) Bhd  
Ground Floor, Wisma Budiman,  
Persiaran Raja Chulan,  
Bukit Kewangan,  
50200 Kuala Lumpur,  
Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur**

or via electronic email to [nmbwbreport@mmc.com.my](mailto:nmbwbreport@mmc.com.my)

- 8.3 If the Improper Conduct involves the Appointed Officer, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or any Board director, the Whistleblower is to report the matter directly to the NMB AC Chairman at the specified above mailing and email address.

## **9.0 TRACKING OF IMPROPER CONDUCT DISCLOSURES**

- 9.1 The Audit Committee Chairman shall forward the reports received to the Appointed Officer for logging the Improper Reports.
- 9.2 The Appointed Officer shall maintain a log of all Improper Conduct Reports received, and the report arising from the screening, investigation, decisions and actions taken on the Improper Conducts Reports for both reports received by the Audit Committee Chairman and the Appointed Officer.
- 9.3 The CEO shall be informed of any new Improper Conduct report, where the CEO is not implicated to the extent possible without disclosing the identity of the Whistleblower and the



person who allegedly committed the Improper Conduct so that interim remedial measures may be taken where required.

- 9.4 The logs of Improper Conduct reports shall be shared with the Integrity and Governance Unit for external regulatory reporting purposes.
- 9.5 All inquiries concerning the status of the investigation from the person implicated, his lawyer or representative, or the Whistleblower should be made in writing and directed to the Audit Committee Chairman.
- 9.6 A response to a written request for the status of the investigation will be provided within seven (7) working days from the date of such written request, subject to any extension of time that may be granted by the Audit Committee Chairman.
- 9.7 The Audit Committee Chairman reserves the right not to respond to the inquiry if, in his opinion, the information is deemed to be sensitive or confidential.

## **10.0 SCREENING**

- 10.1 In respect of disclosures made to the Appointed Officer and the Audit Committee Chairman, the Appointed Officer shall assess the same to determine whether it is related to an Improper Conduct and/or excluded from the scope of this Policy. The Appointed Officer shall, within seven (7) working days from the date the disclosure is made, prepare a report ("Assessment Report") to the Audit Committee Chairman informing the results of the assessment and recommend either to ignore the disclosure or to take further action. The Audit Committee Chairman may extend the time for the completion of the Assessment Report.
- 10.2 In respect of disclosures made relating to Improper Conduct relating to the Appointed Officer the CEO, or any of the Board directors, the Audit Committee may decide to appoint an external independent party to assess whether it is related to an Improper Conduct and/or excluded from the scope of this Policy. The terms of appointment of the external party shall be approved by the Audit Committee. The external party shall within seven (7) working days from the date receiving the disclosures prepare an Assessment Report to the Audit Committee on the results of the assessment and recommend either to ignore the disclosure or to take further action. The Audit Committee Chairman may extend the time for the completion of the Assessment Report.
- 10.3 Within seven (7) working days from the date the Assessment Report was received, so far as is practicable, the Audit Committee Chairman, shall have the authority to make final decisions including, but not limited to, any of the following:
  - a) reject the disclosure(s), either in part or in total, if it falls outside the scope of this Policy;
  - b) direct the matter or any part thereof to be dealt with under other appropriate internal procedures, which includes disciplinary procedures;

- c) direct an investigation into the disclosure(s) made and any persons involved or implicated;
- d) suspend the persons implicated in the Improper Conduct from work pending any further investigation and/or disciplinary procedures;
- e) designate the Appointed Officer or any other persons from within or outside of the Company to conduct investigations or to take any other action pursuant to this Policy;
- f) obtain any other assistance from third parties such as external auditors or obtaining legal advice whether from internal or external solicitors; and
- g) refer the matter to an appropriate enforcement agency, which includes the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

## **11.0 CONDUCT OF INVESTIGATION**

- 11.1 In the event further investigation is necessary, the person appointed to investigate the Improper Conduct (the Investigating Officer) shall, as soon as possible, conduct an investigation into the matter.
- 11.2 The Audit Committee shall have the authority to appoint an external party as the Investigating Officer to carry out investigations pertaining to the Improper Conduct within a reasonable set of terms of reference.
- 11.3 In instances where the Investigating Officer is appointed from any staff within the Company, the Investigating Officer must be an employee of a Designation and/or Grade higher than the employee(s) implicated in the Improper Conduct.
- 11.4 The Investigating Officer may conduct interviews with any relevant witnesses and shall use his/her best endeavours to gather all data and materials relevant to the Improper Conduct disclosed. The Investigating Officer shall have absolute discretion to allow any assistance to the witness during the interview, subject to a request made by the witness.
- 11.5 All interviews and activities carried out in the course of investigation shall be recorded and reduced to writing and filed.
- 11.6 A specific room will be designated for the use of the Investigating Officer to carry out interviews, store documents and for any other purpose deemed necessary in the course of the investigation. Whenever practicable, all interviews shall be conducted in the designated room and all documents relating to the investigation must not be removed from the room during the course of investigation.
- 11.7 The Investigating Officer shall have free and unrestricted access to all records of the Company and shall have the authority to examine, obtain and/or make copies of all or any portion of the contents of documents, files, desks, cabinets, and other storage facilities of the Company so far as it is necessary to assist in the investigation of the Improper Conduct.

## **12.0 INVESTIGATION REPORT (IR)**

- 12.1 At the conclusion of the investigation, the Investigating Officer will submit an Investigation Report (IR) of the findings to the Audit Committee Chairman.
- 12.2 The IR will contain the following:
- a) the specific allegation(s) of Improper Conduct;
  - b) all relevant information/evidence received and the grounds for accepting/rejecting them. Copies of interview transcripts and any documents obtained during the course of the investigation shall accompany the IR; and
  - c) the conclusions made and the basis for them.
- 12.3 Wherever practicable, the Investigating Officer may include in the IR the following:
- a) the steps or recommendations that need to be taken by the Company to prevent the Improper Conduct from continuing or re-occurring in future; and
  - b) any further action to be taken by the Company in respect of the Improper Conduct. The further action includes initiating disciplinary proceedings, and referring the matter to the appropriate external authorities.
- 12.4 The IR Report shall be presented to the Audit Committee. In the event that the Audit Committee is satisfied that based on the findings and recommendations made in the IR, an Improper Conduct has been committed, the Audit Committee Chairman will update the Board on the matter and, through the CEO, will direct HCD to review the matter, and where appropriate, to follow up with disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the policies of the Company as well as to the Company's Legal Department for further advice (if necessary).
- 12.5 The HCD shall update and inform the Audit Committee of the status of disciplinary proceedings and any disciplinary action taken.

## **13.0 REFERRAL OF EXTERNAL ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY**

- 13.1 Pursuant to the above, referral of the Improper Conduct, where appropriate, to the relevant enforcement body or the initiation of any civil action shall be managed by the Company's Legal Department.

## **14.0 TIMELINE**

- 14.1 This Policy is intended to ensure that disclosures made by Whistleblowers are reviewed and actions are taken in a timely manner.
- 14.2 Investigations in respect of disclosures made are to be concluded as soon as is practicable but shall not exceed sixty (60) days from the date the disclosure was made. Notwithstanding the above, where an investigation cannot be reasonably completed within sixty (60) days,

the Audit Committee Chairman may extend the time for its completion provided that the extension does not exceed one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date the disclosure was made.

- 14.3 The Whistleblower shall be informed of the result of any investigation and/or any action taken by the Company in respect of the disclosure made within seven (7) working days from the date an investigation is completed and/or any action taken by the Company, subject to any extension of time that may be granted by the Audit Committee Chairman.

## **15.0 PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

- 15.1 Reasonable steps will be taken to maintain the confidentiality of the Whistleblower's Confidential Information unless:

- a) the Whistleblower expressly agrees otherwise, and provides his agreement in writing; or
- b) otherwise required by law.

- 15.2 The Whistleblower or any person who is involved in the investigation process, shall not disseminate to third parties information regarding the Improper Conduct or any part thereof, including the status or outcome of an investigation into it, except:

- a) to those who are authorised under this Policy;
- b) by lodging a report of the Improper Conduct directly with an enforcement agency in accordance with the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010 or any other prevailing law;
- c) in adherence to any law or in adherence to a legally binding requirement of any statutory authority; or
- d) on a strictly confidential basis to a professional qualified lawyer for the purpose of obtaining legal advice.

- 15.3 The Whistleblower shall not:

- a) contact the suspected individual to determine facts or demand restitution; and
- b) discuss the case, facts, suspicious, or allegations with anyone except to assist in the investigation.

## **16.0 RECORD SAFEKEEPING**

- 16.1 A confidential record of each disclosure will be remarked '**CONFIDENTIAL**' and stored securely by the IAD and HCD (where relevant) for the portions of the Improper Conduct investigated and handled by the Departments respectively for not more than seven (7) years from the date the disclosure was lodged.
- 16.2 Therefore, it is the responsibility of the IAD and HCD (where relevant) to be the guardians of the records and to ensure that the documents are properly filed for the cases which are handled by them.
- 16.3 All records of disclosures made shall be managed in compliance with the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Act 2010 and other applicable laws.

## **17.0 PROTECTION OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER**

- 17.1 Upon making a disclosure in good faith, based on reasonable grounds and in accordance with and pursuant to this Policy:
- a) the Whistleblower shall be protected from any Detrimental Action within the Company as a direct consequence of the disclosure; and
  - b) the Whistleblower's identity and such other Confidential Information of the Whistleblower shall not be disclosed save in accordance with Clause 15.1.
- 17.2 The protection against Detrimental Action is extended to any person related to or associated with the Whistleblower.
- 17.3 The identity and personal information of the Whistleblower as well as the person implicated in the disclosure may be revealed to persons involved in investigations or any other required processes so far as is necessary to assist investigations and/or as required for a due inquiry process to be made. A Whistleblower may also be required to appear as a witness for the Company in the due inquiry process.
- 17.4 A whistleblower is obliged to lodge a complaint to the Company of any Detrimental Action committed against the Whistleblower or any person related to or associated with the Whistleblower, by any personnel of the Company. The Detrimental Action Complaint Form is attached in **Appendix 3**.
- 17.5 A Whistleblower or any person associated with him/her who fears or has suffered Detrimental Action may request to the Company in writing. The Company shall, as far as practicable, make arrangements for a suitable protection(s) if there is a danger or likelihood of Detrimental Action to the Whistleblower or any person associated with him/her.
- 17.6 The Whistleblower protection conferred under this Policy is not limited or affected notwithstanding that the disclosure of the Improper Conduct does not result in any disciplinary action of the person against whom the disclosure was made.

- 17.7 This Policy does not limit the protection conferred by any other written law to any person in relation to information given in respect of the commission of an offence.
- 17.8 The Whistleblower protection conferred under this Policy does not apply where a disclosure was made in a manner inconsistent with or not in compliance with the provisions of this Policy. Notwithstanding the above, the Whistleblower will still be conferred protection save as so far as afforded by the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010 or any written law.

## **18.0 REVOCATION OF WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION**

- 18.1 The Company reserves the right to revoke the Whistleblower protection provided pursuant to this Policy if it is of the opinion, based on an investigation or in the course of an investigation that:
- a) the Whistleblower himself/herself has participated in the Improper Conduct disclosed, except in instances where;
    - i) the participation was under duress; or
    - ii) in the view of the Company, the participation could be justified under the circumstances.
  - b) the Whistleblower wilfully made in his disclosure of Improper Conduct a material statement which he knows or believes to be false or did not believe to be true;
  - c) the disclosure is made solely with the motive of avoiding dismissal or other disciplinary action;
  - d) the disclosure of Improper Conduct is frivolous and/or vexatious; and/or
  - e) the Whistleblower, has made disclosures of Improper Conduct to other parties inside or outside the Company and not only through the persons mentioned in Section 8.0 of this Policy.
  - f) the Whistleblower, in the course of making the disclosure or providing further information, breaches the provisions of this Policy and/or commits an offence under the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010.
- 18.2 If the Whistleblower protection has been revoked, the Company shall give a written notice to the Whistleblower of the revocation together with reasons for the same.

## **19.0 OVERSIGHT AND OWNERSHIP OF POLICY**

- 19.1 The Audit Committee has the overall responsibility for this Policy and shall oversee the implementation of this Policy.
- 19.2 The Head of Internal Audit is responsible for the administration and implementation of this Policy.

- 19.3 In case of doubt, the Head of Internal Audit shall refer to the CEO, Head Group Internal Audit, MNCB or Audit Committee for directions.
- 19.4 This Policy and the provisions herein may be reviewed and amended whenever necessary to ensure its effective implementation. Any amendment to this Policy shall be affected by the Head of Internal Audit, subject to the review by the CEO, endorsement by the Audit Committee and approval by the Board of Directors.