

# Top 10 of Malaysia

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# Rita Benoy Bushon

## Protecting the rights of minority shareholders



**R**ita Benoy Bushon is the CEO of the Minority Shareholder Watchdog Group (MSWG) which was established with the purpose of protecting the interests of the minority shareholder through shareholder activism. The existence of MSWG is to uphold and promote the act of good governance amongst the companies.

What is currently occurring in Malaysia is that usually when a particular decision is made within a company or organization, it is the majority shareholder who will benefit first or the news will reach them before anything is relayed to the minority shareholder. MSWG hopes to change such practices so that everyone can benefit.

When questioned about the name Minority Shareholder Watchdog Group and how corporations perceive MSWG, Rita says that they have actually been quite welcoming and hospitable. The name may sound ominous to some but through communication and awareness building, Rita hopes to create a better understanding between the various organizations and MSWG.

“We are not here to accuse anyone of anything or create problems - at the end of the day through our activities

we hope that everyone can benefit, not just the minority shareholders,” explains Rita. “I am also not comparing our situation to the West and there is no East-West paradigm here but what we are more concerned with are the principles of governance which are the same no matter where you go.”

The board gave her a free hand in how to run MSWG and it has certainly turned out to be a wise choice. “I hope that through my efforts as well as that of my team, MSWG will become a respected organization in the capital market,” explains Rita. “If there are any disputes then we try to handle it through an engagement process, obviously sides are not taken and we try to listen to everyone’s side of the story before giving our opinions and suggestions.”

Those most likely to venture into this particular field of work are those with a background in accountancy, business administration and economics. And the words of wisdom that Rita would like to impart to those who wish to be part of such an organization are, “You definitely have to believe in the cause and the conviction must be there. This is a niche field of work that requires diligence.”

Besides that, Rita is also planning on creating an internship program to take in students and train them with hands-on experience. This way the seniors will be able to nurture the juniors and hopefully take up a position at MSWG but more importantly these people are agents of good governance who exist to promote such positive activities.

Despite her busy schedule Rita finds time for her family. “I admit that sometimes I do take work home but once I am done, full attention is given to my family,” Rita shares.