

# MALAYSIA

## RACISM REPORT 2022



COMPILED BY:  
PUSAT KOMAS





**MALAYSIA**

**RACISM**

**REPORT**

**2022**

*Compiled and Prepared By:*  
**PUSAT KOMAS**  
*Malaysia*

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# Foreword

Racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia are prevalent in all societies. It occurs on a daily basis and hinders the lives of millions of people around the world. If left unchecked, racism and intolerance will lead to the destruction of lives and communities. In Malaysia, issues of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia continue to take place. Despite Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob's commitment to foster national unity through the 'Malaysian Family' slogan, basic principles of equality and non-discrimination continue to be denied. This has sowed seeds of animosity among different ethnic groups as they felt that they have been treated unfairly as compared to the others - resulting in different forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

The Malaysian Racism Report aims to document and record incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia that have taken place in Malaysia. This report is the first of its kind that provides an overview of the issue of racism and racial discrimination in Malaysia. It is crucial in combating the problems of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in Malaysia. These trends may vary from one another, but they are significant enough to be of concern. In fact, many of these issues, more often than not, are swept under the carpet. It is hoped that this report would serve as an important document to inform the public about racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in Malaysia.

While we do not deny that this report may attract nay-sayers, who claim that this report is an amplification of subtle and small issues, we believe that "subtle" and small issues like these will lead to serious ramifications if left unchecked. Hence, the documentation of such incidents is necessary, as reports like this will provide Malaysians an avenue to learn and understand the symptoms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

We are hopeful that the new Malaysian MADANI government, political and public leaders could demonstrate an unequivocal political will and commitment to address the issue of race and religion that has plagued our country for decades. Immediate efforts need to be taken by the MADANI government to ensure that the social fabric that binds us together does not collapse. We are hopeful that the new government will demonstrate genuine actions to ensure that all Malaysians are treated equally and with dignity.

**Dr. Ryan Chua**  
**Programme Director**  
**Pusat KOMAS**

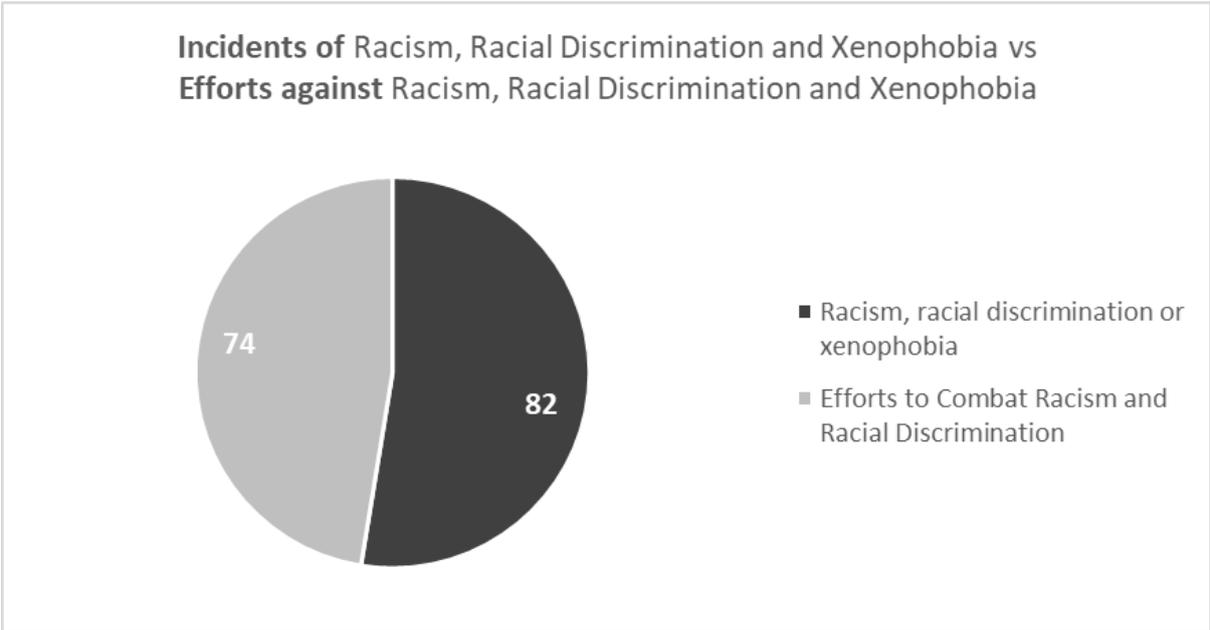
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# Executive Summary

Over the past 8 years of monitoring and reporting incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in Malaysia, the year 2022 has seen the highest number of incidents. Malaysians continue to suffer from inequality and discrimination due to their race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin. The high number of reported incidents could be attributed to the 15th General Elections where politicians, political parties and affiliated members continue to use race and religion as their political tool to garner votes and support. Several policies and initiatives were introduced under the pretext of embracing the spirit of inclusivity, unity, and respect among all Malaysians; however, these initiatives were undermined by hypocrisy as the government reverted to the use of racial rhetoric to seize and maintain power.

Graph 1. Incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia vs efforts



In 2022, there has been an increase in the incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in Malaysia. Based on the exploratory observation of incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia reported in the media and social media, a total of 82 incidents were documented. These incidents were categorised into eight trends respectively:

1. Racial and/or Religious Politics
2. Racial and/or Religious Expressions of Prejudice, Provocation and/or Incitement
3. Racial and/or Religious Discrimination in the Education Sector
4. Racial and/or Religious Discrimination in Employment
5. Racially Discriminatory Government Initiatives and Policies
6. Racial Discrimination in the Rental Market
7. Racism in Sports
8. Xenophobia

Meanwhile, a total of 74 efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia were identified. These efforts were categorised into two different trends which are:

1. Commendable acts by the people in multiracial Malaysia
2. Statements, Commitment, Efforts or Actions by Institutions or People in Power or People with Influence

This report also contains a special report on the “Social Media Monitoring Project on Racial and Religious Politics during the 15th General Elections”. This monitoring project monitored conversations during the 15th General Elections.

The list of incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia documented in this report is not exhaustive of all the situations and problems experienced by all Malaysians, but it highlights a few broad trends of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in Malaysia. These trends may vary from one another but they are significant enough to be of concern. As this report serves as an exploratory observation and compilation of incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia that have occurred in Malaysia, it should not serve as an index, but as an indication of the issues of racism in Malaysia.

The fight against racism begins with being informed and aware. We believe that this report can serve as an important document to inform the public about racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in Malaysia. We hope this report could encourage new ideas and strategies to overcome this issue. This report is also intended to be an important tool to facilitate engagement with the relevant stakeholders such as government agencies, political parties, education institutions, academicians and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This document also outlines Malaysia’s international commitment to promote inclusivity and equality and as such, it is hoped that this document can help to remind the government of its international obligations and promises. We hope that this document can inspire efforts to promote national unity and be replicated by other stakeholders.

# Key Concepts & Methodology

<p><b>Principle of equality and non-discrimination</b></p>	<p>A principle which is proclaimed in the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): “<i>All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights</i>”<sup>1</sup> and reiterated in international and regional human rights treaties. This report is grounded by this foundational principle.</p>
<p><b>Racism</b></p>	<p>There are no universally accepted legal definitions of the term racism. However, the most comprehensive provision on racism is highlighted by Article 4 of ICERD:</p> <p><i>“State Parties condemn all propaganda and all organisations which are based on ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin, or which attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form, and undertake to adopt immediate and positive measures designed to eradicate all incitement to, or acts of, such discrimination.”</i><sup>2</sup></p> <p>The definition of racism in this report will be guided by Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as set out in their publication Dimensions of Racism:</p> <p><i>“a construct that assigns a certain race and/or ethnic group to a <b>position of power over others</b> on the basis of physical and cultural attributes, as well as economic wealth, involving hierarchical relations where the ‘<b>superior</b>’ race exercises <b>domination and control</b> over others”.</i><sup>3</sup></p> <p>Racism is a broader experience and practice than racial discrimination. It includes <b>racist ideologies, prejudiced behaviour, structural arrangements and institutionalised practices resulting in racial inequality as well as the fallacious notion that discriminatory relations between groups are morally and scientifically justifiable</b><sup>4</sup>. Racism is a deep-rooted belief where one group feels superior to another. It can be openly displayed in racial jokes, slurs or hate crimes. Racism can also be deeply rooted in attitudes, values and stereotypical beliefs.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)  
<sup>2</sup> Article 4, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)  
<sup>3</sup> International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), & Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2005). Racism and Migration. In K. Boyle (Ed.), Dimensions of Racism (pp. 111–134). OHCHR.  
<sup>4</sup> Article 2 (2), Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice, available here: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-race-and-racial-prejudice>

<p><b>Racial Discrimination</b></p>	<p>Guided by the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), racial discrimination is defined as:</p> <p><i>“any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.”</i><sup>5</sup></p> <p>In order to determine whether a particular action is considered to be racial discrimination, the action has to be assessed whether <i>“that action has an unjustifiable disparate impact upon a group distinguished by race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin.”</i><sup>6</sup></p> <p><b>Special Measures</b></p> <p>However, special measures <i>“for the purpose of securing adequate advancement of certain racial or ethnic groups or individuals requiring such protection as may be necessary in order to ensure such groups or individuals’ equal enjoyment or exercise of human rights”</i><sup>7</sup> are not considered to amount to racial discrimination provided that such measures do not lead to the maintenance of separate rights for different groups, and are not continued once their objective has been achieved.</p> <p>The United Nations in August 2009 released an explanation note in the form of General Recommendation No. 32, titled “The meaning and scope of special measures in ICERD”, which provides further guidelines and explanations for the implementation of ICERD.<sup>8</sup> Amongst the conditions for the adoption and implementation of special measures include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Special measures should be appropriate to the situation to be remedied, be legitimate, necessary in a democratic society, respect the principles of fairness and proportionality, and be temporary. The measures should be designed and implemented on the basis of need,</li> </ol>
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<sup>5</sup> Article 1, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)

<sup>6</sup> CERD, General Recommendation No. 14, paragraph 2. This includes practices that are non-discriminatory in their purpose but have a discriminatory effect. See CERD Concluding Observations on the initial, second and third periodic report of the United States of America, adopted by the Committee during its 59th Session (2001), U.N. Doc. CERD/C/59/Misc.17/Rev.3, on the “the persistence of the discriminatory effects of the legacy of slavery, segregation, and destructive policies with regard to Native Americans.”, available at:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=A%2f56%2f18\(SUPP\)&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=A%2f56%2f18(SUPP)&Lang=en)

<sup>7</sup> For further discussion on special measures, see: UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, General Recommendation No. 32, CERD/C/GC/32, 2009, available here:

[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=6&DocTypeID=11](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=6&DocTypeID=11)

<sup>8</sup> UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), *General Recommendation No. 32, The meaning and scope of special measures in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms [of] Racial Discrimination*, 24 September 2009, CERD/C/GC/32, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4adc30382.html>

	<p>grounded in a realistic appraisal of the current situation of the individuals and communities concerned.</p> <p>2. Appraisals of the need for special measures should be carried out on the basis of accurate data, disaggregated by race, colour, descent and ethnic or national origin and incorporating a gender perspective, on the socio-economic and cultural status and conditions of the various groups in the population and their participation in the social and economic development of the country.</p> <p>Additionally, such actions “<b>should not lead to the maintenance of separate rights for different racial groups</b>” and “<b>they shall not be continued after the objectives for which they have been taken have been achieved</b>”. As such, special measures should, therefore, be carefully tailored to meet the particular needs of the groups or individuals concerned. If the so-called “special measures” do not fulfil these limitations, such actions are deemed to be racially discriminatory.</p>
<p><b>Xenophobia</b></p>	<p>There is no internationally recognized legal definition of xenophobia. However, according to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, xenophobia is defined as:</p> <p><i>“behaviour specifically based on the perception that the other is foreign to or originates from outside the community or nation.”</i><sup>9</sup></p> <p>Xenophobia exists when “individuals are denied equal rights on account of real or perceived geographic origins of the said individuals or groups, or the values, beliefs and/or practices associated with such individuals or groups that make them appear as foreigners or outsiders.”<sup>10</sup></p> <p>Generally, xenophobia implies discrimination based on the perception of the other as foreign or originating from outside a community or a nation.<sup>11</sup></p>

<sup>9</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Report to the UN Human Rights Council on xenophobia, A/HRC/32/50, 13 May 2016, available here: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/32/50>

<sup>10</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Report to the UN Human Rights Council on xenophobia, A/HRC/32/50, 13 May 2016, available here: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/32/50>

<sup>11</sup> Inter-Agency (International Labour Office (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in consultation with UNHCR), International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, August 2001, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/49353b4d2.html>, page 2

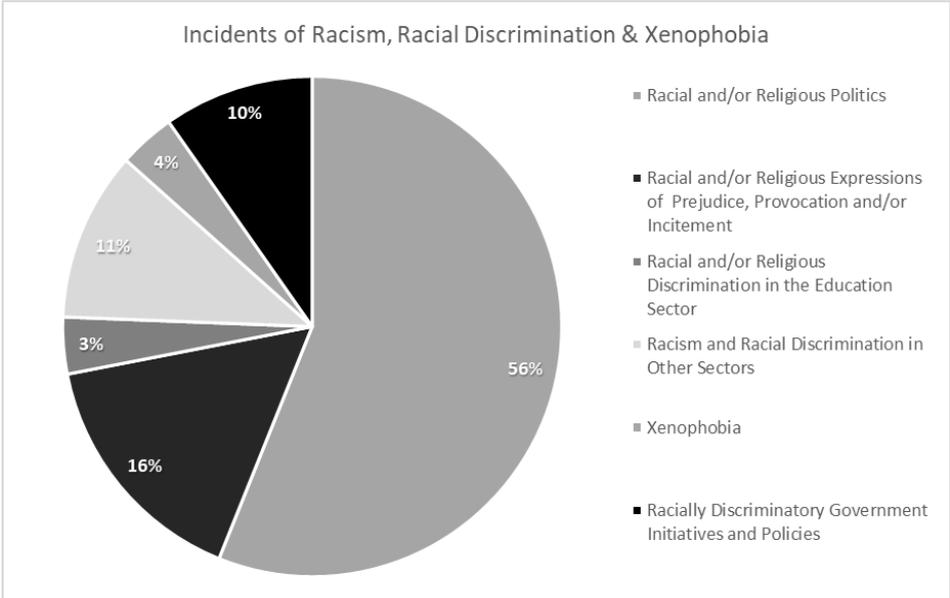
## **Methodology**

Incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and efforts to combat them are compiled from mainstream media, racism reports to Pusat KOMAS and secondary sources such as accounts and views from individuals on social media.

These incidents were examined against the international standards of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia as well as Malaysia's commitment at the international level. Additionally, these incidents illustrate violations to the basic rights enshrined in the Federal Constitution of Malaysia as well as the "National Principles".

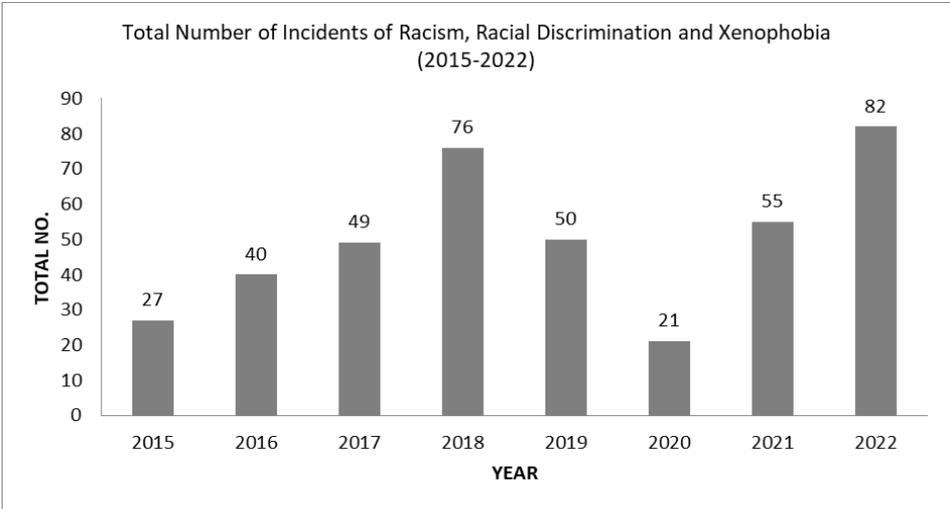
# Incidents of Racism and Racial Discrimination

Graph 2. Incidents of Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia according to trends (Note: 'Others' category includes Sports, Employment and Rental market)



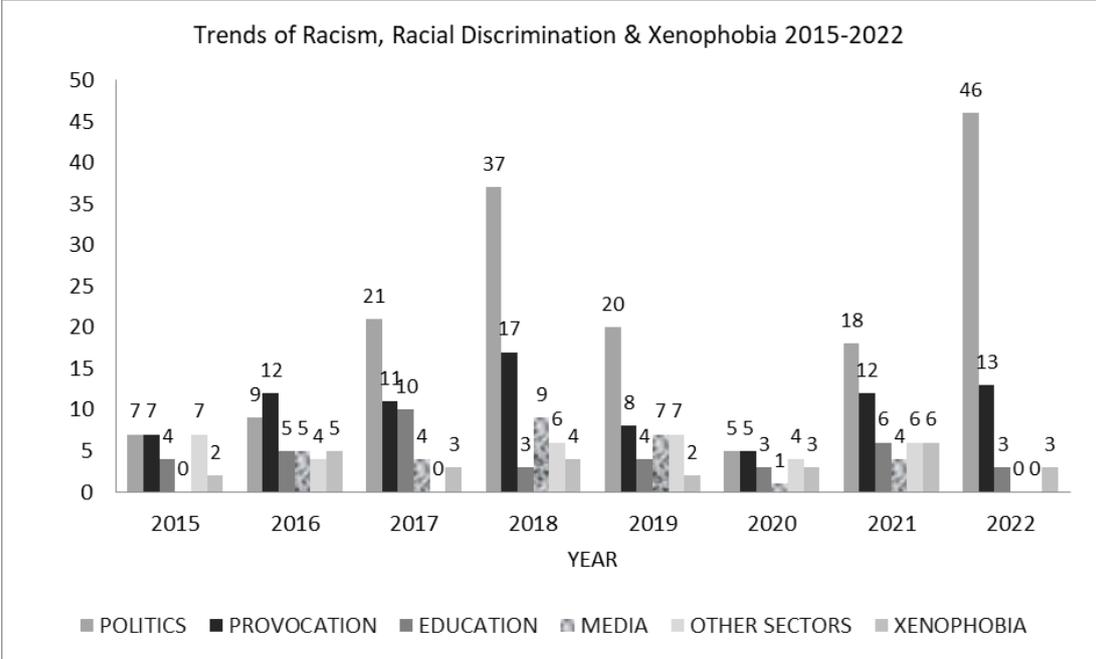
A total of eighty-two (82) incidents were identified as either racism, racial discrimination or xenophobia (refer to Graph 1). The largest percentage of incidents identified belonged to Racial and/or Religious Politics (56%), followed by Racial and/or Religious Expressions of Prejudice, Provocation and/or Incitement (16%) and Racially Discriminatory Government Initiatives and Policies (9%).

Graph 3. Total Number of Incidents of Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia as recorded in Pusat KOMAS' Malaysia Racism Reports from the year 2015 to 2022



Comparing the total number of incidents in our previous Malaysia Racial Discrimination Reports over a period of eight years, the year 2022 saw a spike in incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia (49% increase from the total in year 2021) which broke the previous record of the highest number of incidents (76 incidents in 2018).

Graph 4. Number of incidents recorded in each trend of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. (Note: 'Others' category includes Sports, Employment and Rental market)



Comparing the trends of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in Malaysia over the past eight years, the one trend that has been consistent in most years and especially prominent in 2021 and 2022, is the trend of racial and/or religious politics. Racial and/or religious politics has raked in the highest number of incidents in almost all years, but the number of incidents of racial and/or religious politics in 2022 broke the previous highest record (37 incidents in 2018, 46 incidents in 2022). Judging from the peak points of racial and/or religious politics incidents between 2015 and 2022, one cannot ignore the obvious fact that the increase of recorded incidents coincide closely with the historical 14th and 15th General Elections in Malaysia which took place in 2018 and 2022 respectively, each election more contentious than its predecessor. Issues of race and religion are heavily intertwined with politics in many ways which will be further expanded in the following chapter, which are serious issues that ought to be addressed immediately and with grave concern.

In the 2022 report, in the trend of Racial and/or Religious Expressions of Prejudice, Provocation and/or Incitement (known as Racial and Religious Provocation in the 2021 report), the incidents increased from the previous year by a very small margin. On the other hand, incidents in the trends of Racial and/or Religious Discrimination in the Education Sector as well as Xenophobia decreased. Instead of the continuing the new addition of Racial discrimination in the business sector which was found in 2021, Pusat KOMAS found a new trend which we labelled as Racially Discriminatory Government Initiatives and Policies, which unexpectedly charted as the trend with the third highest number of incidents. This development is concerning and warrants closer inspection.

The trend of racism in social media which was included in the 2021 edition of the Malaysia Racism Report is discontinued in the current edition because of the nature of social media not being a source of racist, racially discriminatory or xenophobic behaviours, but rather a

platform for content and responses which are racist, racially discriminatory or xenophobic. Several incidents listed in the following sections were initiated on social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp) while few other incidents had happened in the physical world but were subsequently captured and posted on social media platforms, mostly in photograph or video format. Incidents were also spread widely and viralised on social media platforms, bringing about much discussion and debate among the internet community. All in all, approximately 41% of all incidents recorded in our report were affected by social media in the manners described above. As social media platforms continue to advance at neck breaking speed, research and monitoring efforts on social media are absolutely necessary in order to understand the way racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia are worsened on the Internet and how these issues can be countered, both online and offline.

### Racial and/or Religious Politics

Racial and/or religious politics is the use of race and/or religion as a human categorisation or hierarchical identifier, in political discourse, campaigns, or within the societal and cultural climate created by such practice. In this section, any attempts and/or claims by politicians, political parties and affiliated groups to justify or promote racism, racial discrimination and/or to claim a position of power over others on the basis of physical and cultural attributes, as well as economic wealth, involving hierarchical relations where the ‘superior’ race exercises domination and control over others are included. Additionally, incidents where religion is used to create any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin are also included.

For decades, race and/or religion have been an effective tool used by politicians and political parties in Malaysia to advance their political agenda. It was used to gain political mileage and to ensure control over constituencies and voters. Politicians and political parties want to be known and regarded as the champions of their racial, ethnic and religious group. They would drum up issues of race and religion nearer and during the elections to prove themselves to be relevant.

The use of race and/or religion in politics were exacerbated when the government was unstable prior to its dissolution as well as the 15th General Elections. It was used during the introduction of laws and policies and the propagation of ethno-nationalist beliefs which may exacerbate interethnic tension and spread fear. In 2022, a total of 46 incidents of racial and/or religious politics were documented. The incidents are reported in Table 1.

Table 1. Reported Incidents of Racial and Religious Politics

Report Date	Incident
5 January 2022	Tun Dr. Mahathir denying racism in his earlier 'chopstick analogy' claiming that the Chinese failed to assimilate in Malaysia <sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> (Translation) Free Malaysia Today, “Chopstick’ analogy not to stir up racism, kata Dr M”, 5 January 2022. See: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/bahasa/tempatan/2022/01/05/guna-analogi-chopstick-bukan-untuk-main-isu-perkauman-kata-dr-m/>

9 January 2022	DAP Perak chief, Nga Kor Ming racialising Perak's evacuation order due to unauthorised temple development risking public safety as an unfair treatment towards racial minorities <sup>13</sup>
11 February 2022	Claims by Senator Khairil Nizam, PAS Communications Chief that the collaboration of Malay parties will not increase racism <sup>14</sup>
5 April 2022	Wan Fayhsal claiming that liberal Pakatan Harapan cannot provide Malays with the 'protection' they need <sup>15</sup>
7 April 2022	Wan Fahysal claiming that the Chinese community votes for DAP due to communal protector mentality <sup>16</sup>
11 April 2022	Putra President, Ibrahim Ali claiming that Malays will lose their land in 20 years without proper guard and preservation <sup>17</sup>
1 May 2022	Putra President Ibrahim Ali reminding Malay-Muslims of their colonised history and warned them of a future where the Malay race falls <sup>18</sup>
11 May 2022	PAS Communications Chief Khairil Nizam advocating the Ummah Unity agenda and emphasising that Malaysia's leader must be Malay-Muslim <sup>19</sup>
15 May 2022	UMNO President Zahid Hamidi calling for the Malay and Bumiputera agenda to be the main priority of the government <sup>20</sup>
3 July 2022	PEJUANG aiming to reduce the poverty gap among Malays <sup>21</sup>
5 July 2022	PAS Selangor commissioner Dato' Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi warning that the failure to unite Muslims will harm the religion and the nation <sup>22</sup>

<sup>13</sup> China Press, "Nga Kor Ming writes to Menteri Besar Perak to withdraw Land Department evacuation order to temples", 8 January 2022. See:

<https://www.chinapress.com.my/20220109/%e9%9c%87%e6%83%8a%e5%9c%9f%e5%9c%b0%e5%b1%80%e4%b8%8b%e4%bb%a4%e6%b8%85%e7%a9%ba%e6%b4%9e%e5%ba%99-%e5%80%aa%e5%8f%af%e6%95%8f%e8%87%b4%e5%87%bd%e5%a4%a7%e8%87%a3%e5%90%81%e6%8c%87%e7%a4%ba%e6%92%a4/>

<sup>14</sup> (Translation) HarakahDaily, "Coalition of Malay parties not meant to be more racist", 11 February 2022. See:

<https://harakahdaily.net/index.php/2022/02/11/gabungan-parti-melayu-bukan-untuk-lebih-perkauman/>

<sup>15</sup> The Vibes, "Liberal Pakatan can't give Malays protection they want: Wan Fayhsal", 5 April 2022. See:

<https://www.thevibes.com/articles/news/57883/liberal-pakatan-cant-give-malays-protection-they-want-wan-fayhsal>

<sup>16</sup> Malaysiakini, "Wan Fayhsal: Chinese vote DAP because of communal protector mentality too", 7 April 2022. See:

<https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/617257>

<sup>17</sup> (Translation) Malaysia Gazette, "The Malays will 'lose' their state and land in 20 years - Tok Him", 11 April 2022. See:

<https://malaysiagazette.com/2022/04/11/melayu-hilang-negara-dan-tanah-air-dalam-tempoh-20-tahun-tok-him/>

<sup>18</sup> (Translation) Malaysia Gazette, "Remember the scourge of Malay-Islam (political) power - Tok Him", 1 May 2022. See:

<https://malaysiagazette.com/2022/05/01/ingatan-imbasan-barah-kuasa-melayu-islam-tok-him/>

<sup>19</sup> (Translation) Berita Harian, "Ummah unification agenda will proceed without UMNO", 11 May 2022. See:

<https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/05/954372/biar-ditolak-umno-pas-teruskan-agenda-penyatuan-ummah>

<sup>20</sup> The Sun Daily, "Continue to empower Malay, Bumiputera agenda for the next two decades: Zahid", 15 May 2022. See:

<https://www.thesundaily.my/local/continue-to-empower-malay-bumiputera-agenda-for-the-next-two-decades-zahid-IX9202390>

<sup>21</sup> (Translation) Sinar Harian, "Pejuang wants to close the Malays economic gap," 3 July 2022. See:

<https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/209777/BERITA/Politik>

<sup>22</sup> (Translation) HarakahDaily, "PAS Selangor to lead on the ummah unification agenda", 5 July 2022. See:

28 July 2022	Tun Dr. Mahathir claiming that politics in Malaysia cannot be separated from ethnicity <sup>23</sup>
4 August 2022	Tun Dr. Mahathir expressing his interest to establish a new coalition which is based on the agenda of the Malays and Islam <sup>24</sup>
20 August 2022	PAS President, Hadi Awang claiming that non-Muslims and non-Bumiputera make up the bulk of 'roots of corruption' <sup>25</sup>
1 October 2022	QIAM representative calling for Malay political parties to form a unified government and to avoid splitting the Malay vote <sup>26</sup>
12 October 2022	PAS Secretary-General, Datuk Seri Takiyuddin insisting that political dominance of the majority group is not racist and unfair <sup>27</sup>
18 October 2022	Tun Dr. Mahathir claiming that Malays only want to be governed by a Malay-dominated government <sup>28</sup>
25 October 2022	Tun Dr. Mahathir calling for support towards PEJUANG to preserve the future of Malays <sup>29</sup>
5 November 2022	Menteri Besar of Perak, Datuk Saarani urging the Chinese and Indian voters to take inspiration from non-Malay voters in previous state elections <sup>30</sup>
5 November 2022	Independent candidate, Joseph Tang wanting to defend the fate of the Chinese community <sup>31</sup>
6 November 2022	Barisan Nasional supporters yelling racial slurs towards Pakatan Harapan candidate for Ayer Hitam <sup>32</sup>

<https://harakahdaily.net/index.php/2022/07/05/pas-selangor-terus-terajui-politik-penyatuan-ummah/>

<sup>23</sup> (Translation) Malaysia Gazette, "Malaysian politics can't be separated from racism - Tun M", 28 July 2022. See:

<https://malaysiagazette.com/2022/07/28/politik-malaysia-tak-boleh-pisah-dengan-perkauman-tun-m/>

<sup>24</sup> (Translation) Astro Awani, "Tun M to establish a new coalition based on the Malay, Islamic agenda", 4 August 2022. See: <https://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/tun-m-bakal-tubuh-gagasan-baharu-berteraskan-agenda-melayu-islam-374396>

<sup>25</sup> Malay Mail, "PAS' Hadi claims non-Muslims, non-Bumiputera make up the bulk of 'roots of corruption'", 24 August 2022. See:

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/08/20/pas-hadi-claims-non-muslims-non-bumiputera-make-up-the-bulk-of-roots-of-corruption/23819>

<sup>26</sup> (Translation) Utusan, "GE-15 for Malay unification?", 1 October 2022. See:

<https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/2022/10/pru-15-untuk-penyatuan-melayu/>

<sup>27</sup> (Translation) Berita Harian, "Dominance of the majority (ethnic group) is not racist - PAS", 12 October 2022. See:

<https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/10/1011217/dominasi-golongan-majoriti-bukan-rasis-pas>

<sup>28</sup> (Translation) Astro Awani, "PRU15: Choose either a Malay crook or an innocent Malay - Tun Mahathir", 18 October 2022. See:

<https://www.astroawani.com/berita-politik/pru15-pilih-melayu-penjenayah-atau-melayu-bebas-kes-ijenayah-tun-mahathir-386489>

<sup>29</sup> (Translation) Utusan, "Vote Pejuang for the Malays - Tun M", 25 October 2022. See:

<https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/2022/10/undi-pejuang-demi-orang-melayu-tun-m/>

<sup>30</sup> (Translation) Malaysia Gazette, "Saarani calls for the Chinese, Indians to lend their support to BN", 5 November 2022. See:

<https://malaysiagazette.com/2022/11/05/saarani-seru-pengundi-cina-india-kembali-sokong-bn/>

<sup>31</sup> (Translation) Sinar Harian, "Independent candidate wants to care for Chinese welfare", 5 November 2022. See:

<https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/229541/berita/politik/calon-bebas-mahu-bela-nasib-kaum-cina>

<sup>32</sup> Malay Mail, "Johor DAP's Sheikh Umar hits back at BN supporters of MCA president over slur", 6 November 2022. See:

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/11/06/johor-daps-sheikh-umar-hits-back-at-bn-supporters-of-mca-president-over-slur/37760>

6 November 2022	Awesome TV Berita 7:57 News Broadcaster making a racist statement on-air <sup>33</sup>
6 November 2022	MCA President, Datuk Seri Wee Ka Siong calling upon Chinese voters to support him so he can do more for the Chinese community <sup>34</sup>
6 November 2022	PAS President, Hadi Awang claiming that the re-delineation practices had resulted in the decline in the political power of the Malays <sup>35</sup>
7 November 2022	UMNO Deputy President, Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin promising to be even more vocal in addressing Malay issues upon victory in the election <sup>36</sup>
7 November 2022	2016 campaign poster inciting racial sentiments reposted on social media <sup>37</sup>
9 November 2022	Prime Minister Ismail Sabri making an allegation that DAP controls Pakatan Harapan even though they have Malay representatives <sup>38</sup>
9 November 2022	Pop King Jamal Abdillah warning Malay-Muslims against voting for DAP in viral TikTok video <sup>39, 40</sup>
10 November 2022	Former MCA President, Liow Tiong Lai stating that MCA is the best platform for the Chinese to express their views on governance <sup>41</sup>
10 November 2022	Deputy President of the Progressive Democratic Party, Datuk Henry Harry stating that GPS must win to ensure a strong representation for the Bidayuh <sup>42</sup>

<sup>33</sup> (Translation) Harian Metro, "GE-15: Awesome TV Berita 7:57 newscasters alleged to make racial remarks", 6 November 2022. See:

<https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2022/11/900576/pru-15-penyampai-berita-awesome-tv-berita-757-didakwa-keluarkan-kenyataan>

<sup>34</sup> (Translation) Oriental Daily, "The battle of Ayer Hitam, Wee: Hold on to Malay votes while fighting for Chinese votes", 6 November 2022. See: <https://www.orientaldaily.com.my/news/nation/2022/11/06/523958>

<sup>35</sup> (Translation) Hadi Awang [@paspusat] "A speech in Besut", 6 November 2022. Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/abdulhadiawang/posts/pfbid02uhckhvoQwWPH6S65CKZVSZhWfrjaYPAjyguwtu4YhKFXD1EpfxcBPye9QzH1f6Rjl>

<sup>36</sup> (Translation) Utusan, "GE-15: Khaled will be vocal in raising Malay issues", 7 November 2022. See:

<https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/2022/11/pru15-khaled-akan-lantang-angkat-isu-melayu/>

<sup>37</sup> (Translation) Oriental Daily, "Jamal lodges police report against viralisation of 2016 "Cina babi" poster", 7 November 2022. See: <https://www.orientaldaily.com.my/news/nation/2022/11/07/524404>

<sup>38</sup> (Translation) Berita Harian, "GE15: Do not get trapped by DAP's tricks - PM" 9 November 2022. See:

<https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/11/1023316/pru15-jangan-terperangkap-helah-dap-pm>

<sup>39</sup> (Translation) YouTube, "Jamal Abdillah calls for the people to reject DAP in GE15", 11 November 2022, Original Jamal Abdillah speech is included in the following video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE2hgBTTan0>

<sup>40</sup> (Translation) Berita Harian, "I just want the Malays to unite - Jamal Abdillah", 9 November 2022. See:

<https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/11/1023218/saya-hanya-mahu-orang-melayu-bersatu-jamal-abdillah>

<sup>41</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Chinese community needs strong voice in Parliament, gov't, says Liow", 10 November 2022. See: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/11/10/chinese-community-needs-strong-voice-in-parliament-govt-says-liow/>

<sup>42</sup> (Translation) Sarawak Voice, "A strong voice to represent 200,000 Bidayuh", 10 November 2022. See:

<https://sarawakvoice.com/2022/11/10/perwakilan-kuat-wakili-suara-200000-bidayuh/>

10 November 2022	Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Amar Awang calling for the Lun Bawang to bring victory to GPS so their development will be guaranteed <sup>43</sup>
11 November 2022	PAS President, Hadi Awang making an allegation that DAP used Malay candidates only to obtain Malay-Muslim votes <sup>44</sup>
11 November 2022	DAP candidate for Bukit Bendera, Syerleena berated and accused of hating and betraying her own Malay race to contest under DAP <sup>45</sup>
14 November 2022	DAP Perak chief, Nga Kor Ming warning that Malaysia would become like Afghanistan should Perikatan Nasional come to power <sup>46</sup>
14 November 2022	Actor Zul Huzaimy making a remark to 'slaughter infidels' in PAS campaign <sup>47, 48</sup>
15 November 2022	PAS Perak's Chief Razman insisting that Perikatan Nasional is the best bet to preserve Malay-Muslim dominance in Perak <sup>49</sup>
15 November 2022	Former Prime Minister, Muhyiddin Yasin urging Malay voters to support Perikatan Nasional to save the country <sup>50</sup>
15 November 2022	Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Deputy President expressing the party's aim to win three Bidayuh seats to give the Bidayuh a louder voice <sup>51</sup>
15 November 2022	PAS President, Hadi Awang making an allegation that the Malay candidates are being used by DAP to influence Malay voters <sup>52</sup>
15 November 2022	PAS President, Hadi Awang stating that an equal "Malaysian Malaysia" society went against 'what God has created in Malaysia' and stressed that only God can destroy a nation when time for punishment comes <sup>53</sup>

<sup>43</sup> (Translation) Sarawak Voice, "Minorities are advised to unite, lend full support to GPS", 10 November 2022. See: <https://sarawakvoice.com/2022/11/10/kaum-minoriti-elak-berpecah-sokong-penuh-gps/>

<sup>44</sup> (Translation) Malaysiakini, "Hadi worried that DAP is fielding many Malay candidates", 11 November 2022. See: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/643666>

<sup>45</sup> Malay Mail, "In Bukit Bendera, DAP hopeful Syerleena says still asked 'Are you a Malay?'" , 14 November 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/11/14/in-bukit-bendera-dap-hopeful-syerleena-says-still-asked-are-you-a-malay/39068>

<sup>46</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "DAP's Nga sounds another 'Taliban' warning", 14 November 2022. See: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/11/14/daps-nga-sounds-another-taliban-warning/>

<sup>47</sup> The term "kafir harbi" was historically used to describe "infidels" or non-Muslims who can be slain for opposing Prophet Muhammad and the will of the Islamic God, as opposed to the accommodating "kafir dhimmi".

<sup>48</sup> (Translation) Kroni Rakyat [@KroniRakyat] 13 November 2022. *Receipt has been kept.* Twitter. <https://twitter.com/KroniRakyat/status/1591587182661480448?s=20&t=B49xyQYxnritY2whorWsOQ>

<sup>49</sup> Malaysiakini, "Perak PAS: PN best option to maintain Malay-Muslim dominance", 15 November 2022. See: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/644316>

<sup>50</sup> KiniTV, "Muhyiddin: PN needs Malay support to reclaim Putrajaya", 15 November 2022. See: <https://www.kinitv.com/en/kininews/120512>

<sup>51</sup> The Borneo Post, "GPS aims for clean sweep of all 3 Bidayuh seats in GE15, says Sagah", 15 November 2022. See: <https://www.theborneopost.com/2022/11/15/gps-aims-for-clean-sweep-of-all-3-bidayuh-seats-in-ge15-says-sagah/>

<sup>52</sup> (Translation) Hadi Awang [@abdulhadiawang] 15 November 2022. *I am concerned about Malay candidates being manipulated by DAP in the upcoming GE15.* Twitter. <https://twitter.com/abdulhadiawang/status/1592320002656727041/>

<sup>53</sup> Hadi Awang [@paspusat] 15 November 2022. *Allah created race and by His Will, race can be annihilated.* Twitter. <https://twitter.com/paspusat/status/1592360896000856064/>

16 November 2022	Perikatan Nasional launching a book for the Indian community and making promises to always safeguard the welfare of Indians <sup>54</sup>
16 November 2022	MIC Deputy President, Datuk Seri Saravanan warning the Indians to be wary of any incitement resulting in the rejection of Barisan Nasional <sup>55</sup>
17 November 2022	Parti Warisan President, Shafie Apdal using the term “ <i>satu ekor Cina</i> ” that carries the connotation of an animal while lambasting GRS for not installing Chinese minister <sup>56</sup>
17 November 2022	Malaysian Malay Contractors Association (PKMM) expressing support for Barisan Nasional due to BN’s assistance and providence of resources <sup>57</sup>
17 November 2022	Selangor PAS Youth leader, Mohd Sukri equating voting for PH with insensitivity toward the Malay-Muslim community <sup>58</sup>
18 November 2022	'Superman Hew' urging support for PH while condemning 'head-wrapped Malays' in his racially charged speech <sup>59</sup>

### Key Observations & Analysis

The rise of the use of race and/or religion in politics could be seen in the build-up and throughout the 15th General Elections. Several politicians and political parties from both the government and opposition had utilised race and/or religion as a tool to make themselves relevant politically. Five particular trends of racial and/or religious politics were identified throughout the year. They include: (1) racializing incidents, (2) propagating racist ideologies and prejudiced attitudes, (3) representing racial and/or religious groups, (4) vilifying other races and/or ethnic groups and (5) fear mongering.

Politicians and political parties tend to racialize incidents, claiming that an incident had taken place supposedly due to an insidious agenda to fortify one race/religion or to undermine another. This is reflected in DAP Perak chief, Nga Kor Ming’s claim that the Perak state government’s evacuation order on an unauthorised temple development was an unfair treatment towards racial minorities, and PAS President, Hadi Awang’s claim that redelineation exercises had eroded the power of the Malays. Framing an incident - which might otherwise be race-neutral - does a disservice to the public as racial sentiments are evoked without proper basis while the actual issues within the incident are sidestepped instead of being properly resolved. When politicians racialise issues, they may be perceived

<sup>54</sup> (Translation) WartaRakyat, “Valimai handbook launched by PN to reach the Indian community”, 16 November 2022 See: <https://wartarakyat.com.my/index.php/2022/11/16/pelancaran-handbook-valimai-mendekatkan-pn-dengan-masyarakat-india/>

<sup>55</sup> (Translation) Utusan, “Do not get trapped in hateful sentiments that will cause the rejection of BN”, 16 November 2022. See:

<https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/2022/11/jangan-terperangkap-sentimen-benci-pemimpin-hingga-tolak-bn/>

<sup>56</sup> Daily Express, “Shafie apologises to Chinese community on remarks”, 17 November 2022. See:

<https://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/202847/shafie-apologises-to-chinese-community-on-remarks/>

<sup>57</sup> (Translation) Utusan, “GE15: Malay contractors under PKMM pledges support to BN”, 17 November 2022. See:

<https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/politik/2022/11/pru15-kontraktor-melayu-di-bawah-pkmm-ikrar-sokong-bn/>

<sup>58</sup>(Translation) PAS Pusat [@paspusat], “A vote for PH is a vote for DAP”, 17 November 2022, Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/paspusat/status/1593084687995797504?s=48&t=FKXx33ZtWuE7JltnSZ7YQ>

<sup>59</sup> Malaysia Now, “In racially charged speech, 'Superman Hew' urges support for PH while condemning 'head-wrapped Malays'”, 18 November 2022. See: <https://www.malaysianow.com/news/2022/11/18/in-racially-charged-speech-superman-hew-urges-support-for-ph-while-condemning-head-wrapped-malays>

as the champion and defender of the race that is 'victimised' in the racialised account of the incident, thus their reputation among said ethnic group improves. It is important to note that an incident that is truly racial, racist or racially discriminatory must be addressed by authorities and resolved in a transparent manner so as to instate justice and equality in the nation, but racialising an originally neutral incident is an act of political manipulation for one's own political interest, and must be decried.

Similarly, the propagation and perpetuation of racist ideologies and prejudiced attitudes were among the popular trends found in this chapter. Politicians and/or political parties had at numerous times attempted to justify the ethnocentric composition of the government to be 'not racist'. For instance, PAS Secretary General, Takiyuddin Hassan's insistence that the political dominance of the majority group is not racist and unfair is an example of where PAS pushes for a certain race and/or ethnic group - in this case the majority ethnic group - to a position of power where they can exercise domination and control over others. The view that it is befitting for the majority race to dominate the entire nation solely by virtue of being the majority race is ethnocentric and elevates one race above the rest when Malaysia is supposed to be known for its multiracial blend of a population. For one race to claim 'true' ownership over the nation and therefore a right to govern the nation relegates other races to mere accessories. Things took a more sinister turn when there were also individuals who took the opportunity to call for violence against other ethnic groups. Hence, justifications of an ethnocentric composition of the government are akin to racist ideologies that jeopardise the development of the whole country.

Politicians and political parties themselves have also continued to campaign by arguing that it is their obligation to be the protector and/or defender of their own ethnic and religious community, claiming that only a representative from their ethnic and religious community is capable to take care of their community, implying that other representatives from other ethnic and religious communities will not carry out their mandate towards said community. This way of campaigning was practised by candidates from all political parties, whether the parties are ethnic-based or not. Although having representatives of all ethnicities and religions is ideal, the multiracial composition of parliamentarians should not come about at the expense of the voters' freedom to choose the best candidate to serve them. After all, parliamentarians should be elected based on their merits and their servitude towards their constituents, and not because they deserve a place solely because of their ethnicity or religion.

Ironically, at the same time politicians and political parties were also found to vilify other racial and ethnic groups, making allegations or claims that belittle other ethnic groups demonstrating their deep-rooted beliefs that other ethnic groups are inferior than theirs. Attempts by politicians to fearmonger, especially during the 15th General Elections, were also identified where politicians and political parties themselves made deliberate claims that their race and religion will be threatened if the opposing candidate or party are elected.

As a result of the different actions highlighted above, the different trends of racial and/or religious politics identified may evoke negative emotions and fear, influencing the ways and patterns of how people vote. Though such actions may have short term benefits for the political candidate and/or party, it may have long lasting impacts on race relations, creating distrust and interracial animosity.

# Racial and/or Religious Expressions of Prejudice, Provocation and/or Incitement

Apart from the use of race and/or religion by politicians and political parties, race and/or religion are also used as a tool by individuals, groups and/or agencies to perpetuate their racial ideologies and prejudices. In this section, any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of their ethnicity, nationality, race, colour and/or descent are included. Similar to the earlier chapter, incidents where religion is used to create any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin are also included. The incidents of racial and/or religious expressions of prejudice, provocation and incitement are highlighted in Table 2.

Table 2. Reported Incidents of Racial and/or Religious Expressions of Prejudice, Provocation and/or Incitement

Report Date	Incident
16 January 2022	Local food blogger Cedly Ang told to “go back to China” by a netizen due to a disagreement of how a particular food is named <sup>60</sup>
16 March 2022	National Unity Minister, Datuk Halimah calling MP Kulasegaran to “go home and eat thosai” during Parliament session <sup>61</sup>
27 June 2022	Pesaka President Zainol Fadzi claim that silat can unite the Malays, not politics <sup>62</sup>
8 July 2022	Mat Kilau film villainising members of other race and religion <sup>63</sup>
8 July 2022	Man claimed that ‘Hindu’ ghosts could not be seen because they are dark <sup>64</sup>
28 July 2022	Minister of Religious Affairs Idris Ahmad calling for Bon Odori and Oktoberfest to not be held <sup>65, 66, 67</sup>

<sup>60</sup> Malaysia Trend, “Feud over ‘char koey teow’ name, netizen: If you want to eat Chinese CKT, go back to China”, 16 January 2022. See: <https://www.malaysiatrend.com/2022/01/17/food-blogger-cedlyornot-blasts-racist-netizen-for-making-racist-comments-on-disagreement-over-char-kuey-teow/>

<sup>61</sup> Malaysiakini, “MPs and unity minister clash in Dewan Rakyat on Mitra probe”, 16 March 2022. See: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/614612>

<sup>62</sup> (Translation) Sinar Harian, “Only silat can unite the Malays, not politics”, 27 June 2022. See: <https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/208842/EDISI/Hanya-silat-boleh-satukan-Melayu-bukan-politik>

<sup>63</sup> World of Buzz, “It is distasteful” – M’sian Sikh Group Condemns Mat Kilau For Villianising Members Of Other Races & Religions”, 8 July 2022. See: <https://worldofbuzz.com/it-is-distasteful-msian-sikh-group-condemns-mat-kilau-for-villianising-members-of-other-races-religions/>

<sup>64</sup> Says, “Man Teaches Kids The Reason They Cannot See ‘Hindu’ Ghosts Is Because They Are Dark”, 8 July 2022. See: <https://says.com/my/news/man-teaches-kids-the-reason-they-cannot-see-hindu-ghosts-is-because-they-are-dark>

<sup>65</sup> Malaysiakini, “Oktoberfest should not be allowed – minister”, 28 July 2022. See: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/630011>

<sup>66</sup> Isma.org, “Oktoberfest not suitable, DAP rep’s statement is shameful”, 3 August 2022. See: <https://isma.org.my/pesta-arak-oktoberfest-tidak-sesuai-kenyataan-ahli-parlimen-dap-memalukan/>

<sup>67</sup> The Vibes, “Respect all views: Wan Fayhsal defends Idris’ remarks on Bon Odori, Oktoberfest”, 3 August 2022. See: <https://www.thevibes.com/articles/news/67509/respect-all-views-wan-fayhsal-defends-idris-remarks-on-bon-odori-oktoberfest>

2 August 2022	'Slanted-Eye' racism advertisement by a Malaysian Sushi Restaurant <sup>68</sup>
2 August 2022	Residents resist plans to build temple in Damansara Damai, claiming that non-Muslims have already been "allocated" a lot of land in Peninsular Malaysia compared to Malays <sup>69</sup>
9 September 2022	Contractor making threatening statement with vulgar and racial slur to a construction site supervisor in Taman Dagang Business Centre <sup>70</sup>
15 September 2022	Twitter post disparaging Lalamove Driver as "Cina Tua Bodoh" <sup>71</sup>
24 October 2022	Twitter post exacerbating racial stereotypes against Indians <sup>72</sup>
29 October 2022	Twitter post expressing hate on the Malays <sup>73</sup>
9 December 2022	Member of the public calls for support or boycott products from another race <sup>74</sup>

### Key Observations & Analysis

Several expressions of one's racial prejudices, beliefs and views were documented in 2022. These expressions demonstrate the deep-rooted view that the majority ethnic group has a position of power to exercise domination and control over others as they are the 'true' owner of the lands. In the event when they disagree with the views of an ethnic minority, they would call for them to return to their "country of origin". Additionally, they would also justify their 'true' ownership of the land by claiming that limited land quotas can only be given to other ethnic minority groups. The claims made by these individuals and groups are discriminatory in nature as it demonstrates one's inherent views of ethnic superiority over the other.

Furthermore, there are several incidents where specific individuals, groups and/or agencies expressed their deep-rooted stereotypical beliefs of other races and ethnicities. Incidents where a man claimed Hindu ghosts could not be seen because they are dark may be passed off as a joke, but it invokes the stereotype of equating all Hindus with dark skin in a way which undermines the religious group (in the video, ghosts from both Malay and Chinese cultures were described, and only ghosts from the Indian/Hindu culture was not properly described and instead reduced to a mere joke). Additionally, the 'slanted-eye' advertisement

<sup>68</sup> Says, "M'sian Sushi Restaurant Slammed For 'Slanted-Eye' Racism in Ad", 2 August 2022. See:

<https://says.com/my/news/are-you-proud-of-this-m-sian-sushi-restaurant-slammed-for-slanted-eye-racism-in-ad>

<sup>69</sup> World of Buzz, "MBPJ's Proposal To Build Temple In Damansara Damai Meets Heavy Resistance By Muslim Community", 2 August 2022. See: <https://worldofbuzz.com/mbpjs-proposal-to-build-temple-in-damansara-damai-meets-heavy-resistance-by-muslim-community/>

<sup>70</sup> Kosmo, "Failure to secure project causes contractor to threaten and racialise the issue", 9 September 2022. See: <https://www.kosmo.com.my/2022/09/09/gagal-dapat-projek-punca-kontraktor-ugut-bunuh-main-isu-perkauman/>

<sup>71</sup> Hype, "Local Baker Criticised For Calling Lalamove Driver "Cina Tua Bodoh"", 15 September 2022. See: <https://hype.my/2022/292590/local-baker-criticised-for-calling-lalamove-driver-cina-tua-bodoh/>

<sup>72</sup> Twitter, "Tweet that uses racial stereotypes against the Indian community", 24 October 2022. See: <https://twitter.com/Justnirutweets/status/1584228869317353472>

<sup>73</sup> Twitter, "Twitter post expressing hate on the Malays" as reported on Pusat KOMAS' Report Racism app on 29 October 2022. See: <https://twitter.com/potatoatom/status/1586094510911938560?s=46&t=-2-ADpzWk2Hf4Y-Tl0m0Ew>

<sup>74</sup> Report submitted to Pusat KOMAS' Report Racism form on 9 December 2022.

used a facial feature stereotypically associated with Japanese persons as well as incorporated a few random but commonly-known Japanese words as a joke for the purpose of attracting viewers to watch the advertisement. This was done in bad taste especially when the restaurant being advertised is in fact a Japanese restaurant. Some would even go to the extent of generalising an entire ethnicity to be poor, filthy and have bad manners, demonstrating deeply-rooted belief where one group feels superior to another, resulting in racial inequality.

Expressions of racial and/or religious prejudice can also be amplified in films. The film 'Mat Kilau', a movie that depicts a historical figure that fought against the British colonists was found to villainise members of certain races and religions. Though fictional and meant to be a compelling story, the scenes in the movie were distasteful and hurtful towards other races and religions. It may also have the potential to create racial and religious misunderstanding. Drawing inspiration from the film, there were groups who capitalised on the film, claiming that 'silat', a traditional Malay martial art, can unite the Malays. In real life, silat instructors have already opened their doors to allow non-Malays to learn silat and participate in competitive silat; thus, the statement made can be seen as going against what looks like a progressive move of promoting inclusivity and national unity.

## **Racial and/or Religious Discrimination in the Education Sector**

Educational institutions are supposed to be safe learning sanctuaries for every student regardless of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin. However, in reality, racial prejudices and stereotypes are cultivated from young. Insensitive taunts, derogatory slurs, unequal treatments and social exclusion based on one's race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin may accentuate racism and racial discrimination, forming deep-rooted attitudes, beliefs and values where one group feels superior to another.

In 2022, three incidents of racism and racial discrimination in the education sector were reported. The reports highlighted the denial of the student's fundamental cultural freedom to wear his/her cultural garment in a school organised cultural celebration and the denial of a particular ethnic group for equal opportunities for higher education. Table 3 highlights the reported incidents of racial discrimination in the education sector.

Table 3. Reported Incidents of Racial and/or Religious Discrimination in the Education Sector

Report Date	Incident
18 May 2022	Student fined for wearing Kurta at a Hari Raya gathering <sup>75</sup>
25 April 2022	School canteen closed during Ramadan; non-Muslim child had to eat in the car <sup>76</sup>
9 August 2022	Charles Santiago says 200 straight-A Indian students denied matriculation places <sup>77</sup>

**Key Observations & Analysis**

The incidents of racial discrimination that took place in the education sector had an unjustifiable disparate impact upon a particular group distinguished by race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin. To illustrate, the action for fining a student for wearing a cultural garment (kurta) in an organised cultural celebration has denied the student of his/her fundamental cultural freedom. In this case, the punishment denies the recognition of the particular ethnic group’s cultural practices.

Additionally, non-Muslim students were also impacted by an educational institution’s decision to close the school canteen during the holy month of Ramadan. Non-Muslim students, who do not profess the Islamic faith and therefore do not practise fasting as required of Muslims, do not have an avenue to purchase and/or have their meals even though they were not fasting. In this case, students were obstructed in carrying out their own basic activities because of another religious/cultural observance being imposed on them, amounting to discrimination.

Furthermore, it has been alleged that Indian students who obtained good grades in their secondary education certification were denied access to higher education. While this is not the first time this allegation has surfaced, this is a matter that is still worth paying attention to, considering the fact that race quotas in public higher education are public knowledge. Race quotas may be set in place to help a certain disadvantaged group obtain the boost that they need in order to be on a level playing field with other groups; but, if race quotas prove to be insufficient in the long run and are also harmful towards other groups, it must be reconsidered. If not, the treatment of racial discrimination in Malaysia’s higher education will impair equal opportunities of ethnic groups and not only lead to an increase of grievances among ethnic groups, but an increase in 'brain drain' where the economy and development of the country will suffer.

<sup>75</sup> World of Buzz, “M’sian Student Gets Fined For Wearing Kurta at a Raya Gathering, M’sians Think it is Unreasonable”, 18 May 2022 See: <https://worldofbuzz.com/msian-student-gets-fined-for-wearing-kurta-at-a-raya-gathering-msians-think-it-is-unreasonable/>  
<sup>76</sup> (Translation) Sin Chew Daily, “Children can only eat in the car during Ramadan: Truth revealed after man criticised on social media”, 25 April 2022. See: <https://www.sinchew.com.my/20220425>  
<sup>77</sup> The Sun Daily, “200 straight-A Indian students denied matriculation places”, 9 August 2022. See: <https://www.thesundaily.my/home/200-straight-a-indian-students-denied-matriculation-places-klang-mp-DX9563063>

# Racial and/or Religious Discrimination in Employment

Equal opportunities should be given to everyone regardless of their race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin. In employment, employers, individual employees and employment agencies have a responsibility to maintain a working environment that is free from racism and racial harassment.

Specifically, employers and employment agencies have a responsibility for providing and maintaining equal opportunity for all job applicants and employees, where no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment than another on racial grounds. Additionally, individual employees have a responsibility to ensure that no forms of racial discrimination and harassment takes place in the working environment. In 2022, four incidents of racial and/or religious discrimination in employment were identified. These incidents are highlighted in Table 4.

Table 4. Reported Incidents of Racial Discrimination in the Private Sector

Report Date	Incident
8 April 2022	Refusal to hire Indian employees by Mr DIY manager <sup>78</sup>
21 April 2022	Wage differences between Malay and Chinese employee <sup>79</sup>
1 July 2022	Knowledge of Islam a condition for the position of an administrative assistant in the Turtle Management Board in the Sarawak Museum <sup>80</sup>
24 July 2022	Alleged racial discrimination in the promotion and employment in the civil service <sup>81</sup>

## Key Observations & Analysis

In the first two cases reported, the employers failed to provide and maintain equal opportunities for all job applicants and employees. In the case of Mr DIY, the manager had discriminated against Indians in determining who should be offered employment. Meanwhile in the case of wage differences, a Malay employee was reported to receive less favourable treatment, and in this case, lesser salary compared to the Chinese employee. In this sense, the victims were denied equal opportunities in terms of hiring and/or fair salary because of their race and ethnicity.

<sup>78</sup> Weird Kaya, “Mr DIY manager accused of racism for allegedly refusing to hire Indian employees”, 8 April 2022. See: <https://weirdkaya.com/mr-diy-manager-accused-of-racism-indian-employees/>

<sup>79</sup> (Translation) MStar, “Girl discovers discrimination in salary paid, thanks to 'translation' feature on FB”, 21 April 2022. See: <https://www.mstar.com.my/lokal/viral/2022/04/21/mujur-fb-ada-fungsi-translation-majikan-kantoi-amal-diskriminasi-gaji-gadis-ini-selidik-iklan-berlainan-bahasa-kerja-sama-upah-berbeza#close>

<sup>80</sup> Malay Mail, “Religious knowledge not mandatory says Sarawak museum after copping flak for job ad”, 1 July 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/07/01/religious-knowledge-not-mandatory-says-sarawak-museum-after-copping-flak-for-job-ad/15154>

<sup>81</sup> The Rakyat Post, “Former Civil Servant Alleges Discrimination, Many Qualified Non-Malays Do Not Get The Jobs They Want”, 24 July 2022. See: <https://www.therakyatpost.com/news/malaysia/2022/07/24/former-civil-servant-alleges-discrimination-many-qualified-non-malays-do-not-get-the-jobs-they-want/>

Meanwhile, in the incident where knowledge of Islam is a condition for the position of an administrative assistant in the Turtle Management Board in the Sarawak Museum, the incident is deemed to be discriminatory as the position does not require the person to have knowledge of Islam to be able to work. When religion is used as a condition for the position, potential job candidates from other ethnic groups are placed at a disadvantage and denied the equal opportunity to be hired. This may also be reflected in the employment and promotion in the civil service as Datuk Dr. Abdul Latiff Ahmad, the former Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Special Duties) revealed that approximately 90% of the 1.2 million civil servants are Bumiputera, raising questions on whether the person’s race has become a determining factor in the hiring and promotion of civil servants.

## Racial and Racially Discriminatory Government Initiatives and Policies

The focus on Bumiputera empowerment continues to be a priority of the Malaysian government today. On the pretext of reducing socioeconomic inequalities and facilitating Bumiputera upward mobility, Bumiputera-targeted initiatives, laws and policies which were established six decades ago during the Barisan Nasional rule have endured across numerous changes in federal government.

The Malaysian government has claimed that ethnically targeted initiatives and policies are still necessary “special measures” to compensate for past wrongs and to provide opportunity and expand participation for communities who are experiencing socioeconomic disadvantages. However, such actions do not fulfil the conditions for the adoption and implementation of special measures recognised internationally.

In 2022, the Malaysian government under the leadership of Prime Minister Ismail Sabri was reported to maintain and introduce several Bumiputera targeted policies under the pretext of reducing Bumiputera socioeconomic inequalities and facilitating upward mobility. However, no effort was taken by the government to address the issues experienced by other ethnic groups. Table 5 highlights the racially discriminatory initiatives and policies reported.

Table 5. Reported Racially Discriminatory Government Initiatives and Policies

Report Date	Initiatives and Policies
8 January 2022	Briefing of Indian Community Action Plan (PTMI) held during Ponggal celebrations <sup>82</sup>
10 February 2022	Maintenance of the Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (TERAJU) to strengthen the socioeconomic status of Bumiputera <sup>83</sup>
14 February 2022	Imposition of 30% Bumiputera ownership by EPU on sale and

<sup>82</sup> Malaysiakini, “Insensitive to hold Indian plan briefing on Ponggal - Kulasegaran”, 8 January 2022. See: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/606114>

<sup>83</sup> Bernama, “TERAJU still relevant in boosting Bumiputera socio-economy”, 10 February 2022. See: <https://www.bernama.com/en/business/news.php?id=2050788>

	purchase of land <sup>84</sup>
19 February 2022	RM 67 million allocation to develop 28 Bumiputera innovation entrepreneurship project <sup>85</sup>
4 March 2022	Priority to local contractors, especially the Bumiputera for transport and flood mitigation projects <sup>86</sup>
19 March 2022	61% priority for Bumiputera interest relating to 5G network contract work and services for local vendors <sup>87</sup>
4 April 2022	Perak Tengah Local Council dine-in ban on restaurant operators during Ramadan <sup>88</sup>
1 July 2022	Works Ministry and the Ministry of Finance to resolve issue of Malay contractors being forced to wind up <sup>89</sup>

### Key Observations & Analysis

Even though Prime Minister Ismail Sabri administration claims that such initiatives and policies are necessary to empower the socio-economic status of the Bumiputera as there is still a wide gap in terms of wealth, income and asset ownership, the measures employed do not appear to be designed and implemented on the basis of need, grounded in a realistic appraisal of the current situation of the individuals and communities concerned. To date, the Malaysian government has not justified the need to continue such measures based on its appraisal of the measures implemented on the basis of accurate data, disaggregated by race, colour, descent and ethnic or national origin on the socio-economic and cultural status and conditions of the various groups in the population and their participation in the social and economic development of the country. Therefore, the initiatives and policies introduced by Prime Minister Ismail Sabri do not fulfil the limitations of “special measures” set by international standards<sup>90</sup>. Such actions have also led to the perceived maintenance of separate rights of different racial groups and as such are deemed to be racially discriminatory.

<sup>84</sup> The Edge Markets, “Supermax aborts RM73m land buy from S P Setia”, 14 February 2022. See: <https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/supermax-aborts-plan-acquire-rm73m-land-s-p-setia>

<sup>85</sup> Berita Harian, “RM 67 million allocation to develop 28 Bumiputera innovation entrepreneurship projects”, 19 February 2022. See: <https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/02/924516/peruntukan-rm67-juta-bangunkan-28-projek-inovasi-usahawan-bumiputera>

<sup>86</sup> The Malaysian Insight, “Cabinet to focus on transport, flood mitigation projects”, 4 March 2022. See: <https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/s/369961>

<sup>87</sup> Free Malaysia Today, “Is 61% Bumi quota the new benchmark, Guan Eng asks Tengku Zafrul”, 19 March 2022. See: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/03/19/is-61-bumi-quota-the-new-benchmark-guan-eng-asks-tengku-zafrul/>

<sup>88</sup> [Ahvin Raaj] “Non-Muslims struggles as eateries are closed during Ramadhan due to Local Council directive”, 4 April 2022, Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ahvinraaj/status/1510801341014151168>

<sup>89</sup> Malay Mail, “Tok Pa: Works Ministry, MoF to resolve issue of Malay contractors being forced to wind up”, 1 July 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/07/01/tok-pa-works-ministry-mof-to-resolve-issue-of-malay-contractors-being-forced-to-wind-up/15284>

<sup>90</sup> UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), *General Recommendation No. 32, The meaning and scope of special measures in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms [of] Racial Discrimination*, 24 September 2009, CERD/C/GC/32, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4adc30382.html>

The decision by the National Unity Minister Halimah Mohamed Saddique to hold a briefing of the Indian Community Action Plan (PTMI) during Ponggal celebrations (multi-day harvest festival for Indians) was also culturally insensitive and discriminatory to the Indian community as it did not recognise the significance and importance of the joyous festival for the Indian community. The action by the Minister to a certain extent downplayed the importance of the event for the Indian community.

## Racial Discrimination in the Rental Market

Preference of a particular race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin as a requirement in the rental market is not new in Malaysia. Property owners would often state their specific racial preferences for tenants on online rental portals, denying equal recognition and opportunities for people from other ethnic groups to rent the property. In 2022, three incidents of racial discrimination were reported in the property sector. These incidents are highlighted in Table 6.

Table 6. Reported Incidents of Racial Discrimination in the Property Sector

Report Date	Incident
30 June 2022	Chinese-only tenants allowed to rent shophot <sup>91</sup>
30 June 2022	No Indians Allowed to Rent at Bentong Homestay <sup>92</sup>
18 July 2022	Chinese or Malay only tenants allowed to rent property <sup>93</sup>

### Key Observations & Analysis

Oftentimes most property owners would set their racial preferences for tenants on online rental portals due to their existing prejudices and stereotypes of other ethnic groups, whether they have seen it for themselves or not. They would claim that their property belongs to them and they have the right to decide whom they would want to rent their property to. However, the consequences of these property owners' actions are detrimental to potential tenants, especially those who are in desperate need of a place to stay. Selection of tenants for commercial areas based on race (refer to Incident 1 in Table 5) imply an intention to physically exclude certain race(s) from the region, which is not dissimilar to racial segregation, a phenomenon that has been growing in Malaysia to the disadvantage of the racial diversity and unity of the country.

The actions of these property owners are tantamount to racial discrimination as they have made a particular preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin and have nullified the recognition, enjoyment or exercise on an equal footing of the person's public life. Such actions have also created an unjustifiable impact on people from particular racial or ethnic origin.

<sup>91</sup> Report submitted to Pusat KOMAS via the Report Racism form on 30 June 2022.

<sup>92</sup> Says, "No Indians Allowed" – Couple Denied Stay At Bentong Homestay By Racist Airbnb Host", 30 June 2022. See: <https://says.com/my/news/no-indians-allowed-couple-denied-stay-at-bentong-airbnb-by-racist-host>

<sup>93</sup> World of Buzz, ""You must understand the reason." – Chinese Agent Denies Being Racist After Stereotyping M'sian Indian Tenant", 18 July 2022. See: <https://worldofbuzz.com/you-must-understand-the-reason-chinese-agent-denies-being-racist-after-stereotyping-msian-indian-tenant/>

# Racism in Sports

Sports often acts as a medium that unites people regardless of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnicity. It provides human interaction which transcends ideologies and beliefs. It embodies the idea of unity and, over time, it is hoped that the normalisation of equality and fraternity will be realised.

However, sports culture can also be unhealthy among persons who are invested in the game, such as fans, coaches and even players themselves. Unhealthy behaviours - such as racism - are not absent from the arena. In 2022, two incidents of racism were reported in the media. These incidents were highlighted in Table 7.

Table 7. Reported Incidents of Racism in Sports

Report Date	Incident
8 October 2022	Melaka United fans calling Terengganu FC import defender “negro bodo” <sup>94</sup>
29 October 2022	Indonesian coach calling Malaysian players “black, white” <sup>95</sup>

## Key Observations & Analysis

In both cases, the remarks made were racist in nature. In the first case, Melaka United fans made a xenophobic statement against Terengganu Football Club import defender, calling him a stupid negro (an offensive ethnic slur), when the Terengganu team won a game against the Melaka team. Fans may have experienced an outburst of emotions as they saw their team lose and acted out of anger. In the second case, the Indonesian coach had called Malaysian badminton pair players, who are of Indian and Chinese ethnicity respectively, as "black" and "white". Though the coach's statement might not have intentionally expressed hatred towards the races, it was still perceived as offensive towards the targets' race and demonstrated deeply rooted attitudes, values and stereotypical beliefs of people towards others' race and ethnic group. Hence, it appears that there is still work to be done to resolve racial prejudice and racism among persons in sports so that sports can be a platform to unite and not divide.

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<sup>94</sup> (Translation) Utusan, “Melaka United implicated in racism controversy”, 8 October 2022. See: <https://www.utusan.com.my/sukan/2022/10/melaka-united-terpalit-kontroversi-perkauman/>

<sup>95</sup> New Straits Times, “Netizens smash Indonesian badminton coach's 'black, white' remark”, 29 October 2022. See: <https://www.nst.com.my/sports/badminton/2022/10/844786/netizens-smash-indonesian-badminton-coachs-black-white-remark>

# Xenophobia

Xenophobia is defined as a fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign. As Malaysia tussles with issues surrounding racial discrimination among her own citizens, some netizens have also projected similar negative sentiments against foreigners. The following incidents captured moments when Malaysians exhibited the fear of foreigners and in certain instances, with some degree of hostility.

Table 8. Reported Incidents of Xenophobia

Report Date	Incident
7 January 2022	Home Minister, Dato’ Seri Hamzah Zainuddin warns all Rohingyas to not be stubborn and big-headed <sup>96</sup>
9 February 2022	Perak MB, Dato’ Seri Saarani telling Thai workers to “bring ‘tom yam’ not Covid-19” <sup>97</sup>
5 October 2022	Sudanese student racially criticised for not wearing a mask <sup>98</sup>

## Key Observations & Analysis

The first two cases involved figures of authority giving a statement that was targeted towards people from a foreign ethnicity and nationality. In one case, the Rohingya people were painted in a bad light with the Home Minister's use of negative character adjectives such as "big-headed". To put matters into context, the Rohingya people are refugees who suffer persecution by the Myanmar government because they profess the faith of Islam. In the other case, the Menteri Besar's quip asking Thai workers to bring tom yam was irrelevant to his main message, leaving a bad taste for listeners. It is concerning to see politicians display negative attitudes towards foreigners as it destabilises the security of foreigners to stay in the country peaceably and condones xenophobia among the general public.

The third case involved racism towards a Sudanese student. Although the incident started because the student broke the rules by not wearing a face mask on a bus (he claimed that he forgot), the extent to which two local men on the same bus berated him and shouted racial profanities at him for five minutes could be said to be too excessive. The intolerance shown in this scenario gives a glimpse of how xenophobic members of the public can be, and unfortunately provides anti-thesis to the generous hospitality that has been long touted by Malaysia's tourism industry.

<sup>96</sup> The Borneo Post, “Don’t be stubborn, Hamzah warns Rohingyas”, 7 January 2022. See: <https://www.theborneopost.com/2022/01/07/dont-be-stubborn-hamzah-warns-rohingyas/>  
<sup>97</sup> Malay Mail, “Bring ‘tom yam’ not Covid-19, Perak MB tells Thai workers returning to Malaysia”, 9 February 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/02/09/bring-tom-yam-not-covid-19-perak-mb-tells-thai-workers-returning-to-malaysi/2040552>  
<sup>98</sup> World of Buzz, “Sudanese Student Who Forgot To Wear Mask in Bus Gets Racially Discriminated By M’sian Uncle”, 5 October 2022. See: <https://worldofbuzz.com/sudanese-student-who-forgot-to-wear-mask-in-bus-gets-racially-discriminated-by-msian-uncle/>

# Efforts to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

In Pusat KOMAS' previous reports, every good deed that facilitates the promotion of nation building and social cohesion would be classified as efforts. The 2022 report continues the exercise of documenting good deeds but differs from its predecessors as it further categorises the good deeds, depending on the intent of a particular speech and actions, namely into: (1) Commendable actions of living in a multiracial society, as well as (2) Efforts to promote national unity and combat racial discrimination.

The categorisation allows us to quantify the degree of contribution towards the unity of the country. In the first category, we applaud the actions of everyday Malaysians whose primary intention is to do good but at the same time resulted in sowing the seeds of unity amongst various ethnic groups in Malaysia. In the second category, we recognise the intentional efforts to promote unity and harmony in the nation and/or combat racism and racial discrimination, whether through statements of concrete actions. This cures the disparity from the previous reports.

Seventy-four (74) incidents were recorded under this section, seeing a slight increase from last year's sixty-one (61) incidents. Among these incidents, eleven (11) are labelled as Commendable acts by people in multiracial Malaysia, while sixty-three (63) are what we call statements, commitments, efforts or actions by institutions or people in power or with influence.

Table 9. Commendable acts by the people in multiracial Malaysia

Report Date	Incident
16 January 2022	Condominium resident replaces racist sticker inside lift with an anti-racist message <sup>99</sup>
18 January 2022	Hindu devotees helped a Malay lady to deliver her baby in a pickup truck during Thaipusam celebrations <sup>100</sup>
18 January 2022	Former kindergarten teacher has raised daughter of Indonesian for more than 20 years while maintaining child's religion of Islam <sup>101</sup>
9 February 2022	Housewife asked for permission from neighbours to set off fireworks in the residential area for Chinese New Year <sup>102</sup>

<sup>99</sup> World of Buzz, "M'sian Appalled To Find Racist Sticker Inside Condo Lift, Replaces It With An Anti-Racism Message", 16 June 2022. See: <https://worldofbuzz.com/racist-sign-at-condominium-leaves-netizens-fuming/>

<sup>100</sup> (Translation) Free Malaysia Today, "Thaipusam participants help a Malay lady deliver her baby in a pick-up truck at Batu Caves", 18 January 2022. See: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/bahasa/tempatan/2022/01/18/peserta-thaipusam-bantu-wanita-bersalin-dalam-kenderaan-di-batu-caves/>

<sup>101</sup> (Translation) Harian Metro, "Differences in religion, race not a barrier to live harmoniously", 18 January 2022. See: <https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2022/01/801222/beza-agama-bangsa-bukan-penghalang-untuk-hidup-harmoni>

<sup>102</sup> (Translation) Harian Metro, "Seeking for permission to light up firecrackers in order to avoid misunderstanding", 9 February 2022. See: <https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2022/02/808615/minta-kebenaran-bakar-mercurun-kerana-tidak-mahu-disalah-erti>

6 April 2022	School shares parking with surau during Ramadan period <sup>103</sup>
7 April 2022	Mixed-marriage couple (Chinese and Indonesian) visits cemetery for Ching Ming festival together <sup>104</sup>
16 June 2022	Malaysian Indian couple chose traditional Malay attire for wedding dinner <sup>105</sup>
14 July 2022	True Malaysian spirit captured at Malay wedding in Tawau with lion dance performance <sup>106</sup>
30 August 2022	Malay man lent shirt to help Chinese man who fell short of attire rules and was rejected from taking driving test <sup>107</sup>
18 October 2022	Ex-airmen gather to relive 50-year multiracial bond <sup>108</sup>
24 November 2022	Colleagues of all races pooled money for man whose mother was admitted to the ICU <sup>109</sup>

The 11 incidents saw ordinary Malaysians of different backgrounds exemplifying how living in multiracial Malaysia should be practised by people of all ethnic groups. Reported incidents have demonstrated that race and/or religion is not a hindrance nor a divisive factor for ordinary Malaysians to live harmoniously in a respectful and mutually understanding manner.

Among these incidents, a few displayed examples of goodwill being practised in Malaysia involving people of different ethnicities in difficult situations. We see people helping each other across different ethnicities, showing that Malaysians do not discriminate when helping those in need, such as the Hindu devotees who went to greater lengths to assist the pregnant Malay lady in delivering her baby while putting their celebrations on hold. Most notably, we saw a Chinese lady who was moved to care for a two-month-old Indonesian baby as her own child, while maintaining the child's Islamic identity. This is not an easy feat considering the challenges in providing care and education for a baby that is not of her ethnicity (i.e., Chinese) in the current climate of ethno-religious politics in the country. These

<sup>103</sup> Malaysiakini, "Muhibbah' spirit: School praised for sharing parking with surau", 6 April 2022. See:

<https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/617117>

<sup>104</sup> World of Buzz, "Mixed Marriage Couple Inspiringly Still Visits Cemetery For Ching Ming Festival To Pay Respects", 7 April 2022. See:

<https://worldofbuzz.com/mixed-marriage-couple-inspiringly-still-visits-cemetery-for-ching-ming-festival-to-pay-respect/>

<sup>105</sup> Malay Mail, "Malaysian Indian couple goes viral for choice of traditional Malay attire for wedding dinner", 16 June 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/life/2022/06/16/malaysian-indian-couple-goes-viral-for-choice-of-traditional-malay-attire-for-wedding-dinner-video/12658>

<sup>106</sup> The Star, "True Malaysian spirit captured at Malay wedding in Tawau with lion dance performance", 14 July 2022. See: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2022/07/14/true-malaysian-spirit-captured-at-malay-wedding-in-tawau-with-lion-dance-performance>

<sup>107</sup> (Translation) Sin Chew Daily, "Chinese man fell short of attire requirements and rejected from driving test premises, Malay man lends his own shirt to help", 30 August 2022. See: <https://www.sinchew.com.my/?p=4055219>

<sup>108</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Ex-airmen gather to relive 50-year multiracial bond", 18 October 2022. See: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/top-lifestyle/2022/10/18/ex-airmen-gather-to-relive-50-year-multiracial-bond/>

<sup>109</sup> World of Buzz, "M'sian Shares How His Multi Racial Colleagues Pooled Money For His Mum Who Was in ICU", 24 November 2022. See:

<https://worldofbuzz.com/msian-shares-how-his-multi-racial-colleagues-pooled-money-for-his-mum-who-was-in-icu/>

incidents have shown to us that Malaysians regardless of their ethnic background will go out of their way to help those who are in need.

Meanwhile there are also incidents that show Malaysians being accepting of the cultural practices of different ethnicities, even sometimes to the point of adopting said cultural elements into their own festivities. These incidents are examples of cultural openness that Malaysians have been practising for the longest of time while maintaining their core values and identities. Respect and willingness to compromise were also shown in instances where a Chinese lady has asked neighbours for permission to set off fireworks in the residential area during Chinese New Year celebrations, as well as a reciprocal relationship between the school and the surau where the school has offered its parking space to surau visitors during Ramadan for 10 years while the surau has also provided its parking space for parents.

Additionally, the gathering of former airmen of all ethnic groups was another example of what inclusivity means. In the gathering, it was reported that they have known each other for the past 50 years and the gathering was to commemorate their friendship. The participants commented that they have actually been living the ‘Keluarga Malaysia’ spirit way before it was introduced and their relationship has stood against the trial of time.

Finally, there is also a reported incident where a condominium resident was reported to have replaced a racist sticker on the lift buttons in his residence with an anti-racism sticker that he made on his own. This incident has taught us that any ordinary Malaysian can and have the ability to call out against racism within their own capacity.

We believe that these commendable acts by ordinary Malaysians should be given more spotlight by the media and we hope that more Malaysians would be inspired and do their part in promoting better ethnic relations within their own communities.

Table 10. Statements, Commitments, Efforts or Actions by Institutions or People in Power or with Influence

Report Date	Incident
4 January 2022	Perak DAP stated that non-Muslim rights should be respected and the alcohol ban should be cancelled <sup>110</sup>
9 January 2022	Parti Bangsa Malaysia (PBM) agenda included multiracial involvement <sup>111</sup>
17 January 2022	National Unity Minister Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique called on the public to cherish and appreciate plural society in Thaipusam message <sup>112</sup>

<sup>110</sup> (Translation) China Press, “Perak DAP: Non-Muslim rights should be respected, cancel alcohol ban”, 4 January 2022. See: <https://www.chinapress.com.my/20220104>

<sup>111</sup> Malaysiakini, “Parti Bangsa Malaysia agenda includes multiracial involvement”, 9 January 2022. See: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/606271>

<sup>112</sup> New Straits Times, “Cherish and appreciate plural society, Halimah says in Thaipusam message”, 17 January 2023. See: <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/01/763855/cherish-and-appreciate-plural-society-halimah-says-thaipusam-message>

25 January 2022	PBM stated that it is time for all race and religion-based politics to end <sup>113</sup>
14 February 2022	DAP Sarawak proposed that 3rd generation Chinese and Indian Sarawakian should receive bumiputera status <sup>114</sup>
15 February 2022	Sarawak bill recognising mixed-marriage children as natives is passed <sup>115</sup>
24 February 2022	Former Prime Minister Najib Razak stated that vernacular schools important to give parents choices <sup>116</sup>
21 March 2022	PAS MP demanded action against employers who do not permit headscarves <sup>117</sup>
24 March 2022	Perlis ruler stated that the Islamic approach in Perlis should be free from elements of racism and disharmony <sup>118</sup>
3 April 2022	National Unity Minister called for strengthening of the Keluarga Malaysia spirit during Ramadan <sup>119</sup>
4 April 2022	Perak Tengah local council rescinds Ramadan afternoon dine-in ban <sup>120</sup>
6 April 2022	Muar MP Syed Saddiq questioned if Malays benefitted while political 'protectors' lived in luxury <sup>121</sup>
7 April 2022	Mr DIY took action against employee over racial discrimination in hiring process <sup>122</sup>

<sup>113</sup> New Straits Times, "Time for all race and religion-based politics to end, says PBM", 25 January 2022. See:

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/01/765946/time-all-race-and-religion-based-politics-end-says-pbm>

<sup>114</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "3rd generation Sarawakians, regardless of race, are also natives, says DAP", 14 February 2022. See:

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/02/14/3rd-generation-sarawakians-regardless-of-race-are-also-natives-says-dap/>

<sup>115</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Passed – Sarawak bill recognising mixed-marriage children as natives", 15 February 2022. See:

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/02/15/passed-sarawak-bill-recognising-mixed-marriage-children-as-natives/>

<sup>116</sup> The Star, "Vernacular schools important to give parents choices, says Najib", 24 February 2022. See:

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2022/02/24/vernacular-schools-important-to-give-parents-choices-says-najib>

<sup>117</sup> Malaysiakini, "PAS MP wants action against employers who don't permit headscarves", 21 March 2022. See:

<https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/615249>

<sup>118</sup> (Translation) SuaraMerdeka, "Islamic approach in Perlis should be free of racism, discord – Raja Perlis", 24 March 2022. See:

<https://suaramerdeka.com.my/pendekatan-islam-di-perlis-hendaklah-bebas-daripada-unsur-perkauman-permusuhan-raja-perlis/>

<sup>119</sup> Malay Mail, "National Unity minister: Strengthen spirit of Keluarga Malaysia this Ramadan", 3 April 2022. See:

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/04/03/national-unity-minister-strengthen-spirit-of-keluarga-malaysia-this-ramadan/2051282>

<sup>120</sup> The Vibes, "Perak Tengah council rescinds Ramadan afternoon dine-in ban", 4 April 2022. See:

<https://www.thevibes.com/articles/news/57874/perak-tengah-council-rescinds-ramadan-afternoon-dine-in-ban>

<sup>121</sup> Malaysiakini, "Did Malays benefit while political 'protectors' lived in luxury? - Syed Saddiq", 6 April 2022. See:

<https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/617135>

<sup>122</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Action taken against employee over racial discrimination, says Mr DIY", 7 April 2022. See:

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/04/07/action-taken-against-employee-over-racial-discrimination-says-mr-diy/>

6 May 2022	Nik Nazmi told PH to focus on people's issues for GE15 <sup>123</sup>
9 May 2022	Singer Mimifly decried usage of the term 'Negro' to describe her boyfriend and explained the reason why the term is offensive <sup>124</sup>
17 May 2022	Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah called for the government to curb elements of racial politics <sup>125</sup>
1 June 2022	Veteran economist Tan Sri Kamal Salih proposed to scrap National Economic Policy and replace it with needs-based policy <sup>126</sup>
9 June 2022	Malaysia to promote concept of peaceful co-existence to combat Islamophobia <sup>127</sup>
11 June 2022	Sultan Nazrin urged Malaysia to remain exemplar of multiculturalism <sup>128</sup>
19 June 2022	Raja Muda of Kedah told social media content creators to exercise caution before posting content <sup>129</sup>
14 July 2022	Minister of Higher Learning Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad stated that Keluarga Malaysia meals must consider diversity of races at public tertiary education institutions <sup>130</sup>
31 July 2022	Raub MP advised religious affairs minister against interfering in non-Muslim cultural events, i.e., Oktoberfest <sup>131</sup>
14 August 2022	Perak DAP Chief Nga Kor Ming urged Prime Minister to abolish Bumiputera/non-Bumiputera distinction <sup>132</sup>

<sup>123</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Focus on people's issues for GE15, Nik Nazmi tells PH", 6 May 2022. See: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/05/06/focus-on-peoples-issues-for-ge15-nik-nazmi-tells-ph/>

<sup>124</sup> (Translation) Kosmo, "'Negro' considered impolite and hostile – Mimi Fly", 9 May 2022. See: <https://www.kosmo.com.my/2022/05/09/perkataan-negro-dikira-biadab-cari-gaduh-mimi-fly/>

<sup>125</sup> (Translation) Berita Harian, "Curb elements of racial politics, steer away from hostility, violence", 17 May 2022. See: <https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/05/956476/bendung-elemen-politik-perkauman-elak-permusuhan-keganasan>

<sup>126</sup> The Vibes, "Scrap NEP, replace with needs-based policy to reset economy: MIER founder", 1 June 2022. See: <https://www.thevibes.com/articles/news/62239/scrap-nep-replace-with-needs-based-policy-to-reset-economy-mier-founder>

<sup>127</sup> (Translation) Berita Harian, "Malaysia to promote co-existence to oppose Islamophobia", 9 June 2022. See: <https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/06/964177/malaysia-bawa-konsep-budaya-hidup-bersama-tangani-islamofobia>

<sup>128</sup> Malaysiakini, "Sultan Nazrin: Malaysia must remain exemplar of multiculturalism", 11 June 2022. See: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/624301>

<sup>129</sup> Malay Mail, "Raja Muda of Kedah tells social media content creators to exercise caution before posting content", 19 June 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/06/19/raja-muda-of-kedah-tells-social-media-content-creators-to-exercise-caution-before-posting-content/13117>

<sup>130</sup> New Straits Times, "Keluarga Malaysia meals must consider diversity of races at IPTs", 14 July 2022. See: <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/07/813403/keluarga-malaysia-meals-must-consider-diversity-races-ipts>

<sup>131</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Don't interfere in non-Muslim cultural events, minister told", 31 July 2022. See: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/07/31/dont-interfere-in-non-muslim-cultural-events-minister-told/>

<sup>132</sup> (Translation) Oriental Daily, "Urging PM to practise 'Keluarga Malaysia' slogan, Nga: Abolish Bumi-non Bumi distinction", 14 August 2022. See: <https://www.orientaldaily.com.my/news/perak/2022/08/14/505573>

20 August 2022	Several leaders <sup>133</sup> criticising <sup>134</sup> Hadi Awang's racially provocative statement which claimed that non-Muslims fare the root of all corruption) <sup>135, 136</sup> . Additionally, an investigation against this statement has been initiated by The Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) <sup>137</sup>
21 August 2022	MUDA President Syed Saddiq vowed to ensure no politics of division in Sabah <sup>138</sup>
28 August 2022	Actor called for reinstatement of involving non-Malay actors in local dramas and films <sup>139</sup>
30 August 2022	Agong states that solidarity, integration, and racial unity are keys to country's well-being <sup>140</sup>
31 August 2022	Sultan Selangor warned the public against the intermix of politics, race and religion that bring conflict and division" <sup>141</sup>
3 September 2022	Gymrama athlete expressed hopes to see more from other ethnicities join the national gymrama team <sup>142</sup>
16 September 2022	Rappers spread message of unity on Malaysia Day <sup>143</sup>
17 September 2022	National Sports Council of Malaysia Director-General insisted that quality is prioritised over ethnicity in selection of national athletes <sup>144</sup>

<sup>133</sup> (Translation) Malaysia Gazette, "DAP claims Hadi's statement is racist for accusing non-Malays for corruption", 21 August 2022. See:

<https://malaysiagazette.com/2022/08/21/tuduh-bukan-islam-punca-rasuah-dap-dakwa-kenyataan-hadi-rasis/>

<sup>134</sup> Malay Mail, "TI-Malaysia condemns Hadi for racist statement, says corruption is colour blind and affects all", 22 August 2022. See:

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/08/22/ti-malaysia-condemns-hadi-for-racist-statement-says-corruption-colour-blind-and-affects-all/24026>

<sup>135</sup> Malay Mail, "Guan Eng urges Malaysians to report Hadi for hate speech, demands public apology for statement linking corruption to non-Bumi", 23 August 2022. See:

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/08/23/guan-eng-urges-malaysians-to-report-hadi-for-hate-speech-demands-public-apology-for-statement-linking-corruption-to-non-bumi/24237>

<sup>136</sup> New Straits Times, "Parti Warisan Penang hits out at Hadi over 'roots of corruption' claim", 23 August 2022. See:

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/08/824845/parti-warisan-penang-hits-out-hadi-over-roots-corruption-claim>

<sup>137</sup> Malay Mail, "Police to investigate Hadi Awang over racial remarks", 28 August 2022. See:

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/08/28/police-to-investigate-hadi-awang-over-racial-remarks/25267>

<sup>138</sup> Malay Mail, "Muda president Syed Saddiq vows to ensure no politics of division in Sabah", 21 August 2022. See:

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/08/21/muda-president-syed-saddiq-vows-to-ensure-no-politics-of-division-in-sabah/23851>

<sup>139</sup> (Translation) Harian Metro, "Revitalise the involvement of non-Malay actors in dramas, films", 28 August 2022. See:

<https://www.hmetro.com.my/rap/2022/08/876226/meriahkan-pembabitan-pelakon-bukan-melayu-dalam-drama-filem>

<sup>140</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Solidarity, integration, racial unity keys to country's well-being, says Agong", 30 August 2022. See:

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/08/30/beware-of-wolves-in-sheeps-clothing-out-to-divide-the-people-says-king/>

<sup>141</sup> (Translation) Harian Metro, "Be on the lookout for destructive elements - Selangor Sultan", 31 August 2022. See:

<https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2022/08/877214/waspada-unsur-yang-menghancurkan-sultan-selangor>

<sup>142</sup> (Translation) Harian Metro, "Malays, Indians are wanted", 3 September 2022. See:

<https://www.hmetro.com.my/utama/2022/09/878197/nak-melayu-india-masuk>

<sup>143</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Rappers spread message of unity on Malaysia Day", 16 September 2022. See:

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/leisure/2022/09/16/rappers-spread-message-of-unity-on-malaysia-day/>

<sup>144</sup> (Translation) Harian Metro, "Choose quality over race", 17 September 2022. See:

<https://www.hmetro.com.my/utama/2022/09/882654/pilih-kualiti-bukan-kaum>

23 September 2022	Police in Pulau Pinang urged the public to stop conflating illegal racing issue with race <sup>145</sup>
29 September 2022	DAP Chairman Lim Guan Eng told PAS to stop their racism and extremist approaches <sup>146</sup>
2 October 2022	Kelantan government organised 'Malam puisi Malaysia', a manifestation of multiculturalism <sup>147</sup>
4 October 2022	Padang Rengas MP Nazri Aziz called for anti-racism laws <sup>148</sup>
8 October 2022	Prime Minister announced that racial and religious polemics have reduced since the introduction of 'Keluarga Malaysia' <sup>149</sup>
8 October 2022	DAP expressed aspirations to contest in Malay-majority parliamentary seats <sup>150</sup>
15 October 2022	Sarawak Deputy Premier urged candidates to avoid stirring up racial issues during the election campaign <sup>151</sup>
15 October 2022	Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim states that PH defends all races and not just Malays <sup>152</sup>
20 October 2022	BN Communications Director stated that they will not only fight for the interests of a particular race or religion <sup>153</sup>
23 October 2022	DAP Chairman Lim Guan Eng questioned measly allocations for the Indian and Chinese in Budget 2023 <sup>154</sup>
24 October 2022	Muar MP Syed Saddiq join Indian rappers in a song of racial equality released during Deepavali <sup>155</sup>

<sup>145</sup> (Translation) Utusan, "Illegal racing: Do not racialize issues", 23 September 2022. See:

<https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/2022/09/lumba-haram-jangan-timbulkan-isu-perkauman/>

<sup>146</sup> New Straits Times, "Stop your racism and extremist approaches, Guan Eng tells Pas", 29 September 2022. See:

[https://www.nst.com.my/news/politics/2022/09/835453/stop-your-racism-and-extremist-approaches-guan-eng-tells-pas?utm\\_source=says&utm\\_medium=recommendation](https://www.nst.com.my/news/politics/2022/09/835453/stop-your-racism-and-extremist-approaches-guan-eng-tells-pas?utm_source=says&utm_medium=recommendation)

<sup>147</sup> (Translation) Utusan, "Malaysian Poem Night a manifestation of many races", 2 October 2022. See:

<https://www.utusan.com.my/gaya/sastera/2022/10/malam-puisi-malaysia-manifestasi-pelbagai-kaum/>

<sup>148</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Nazri calls for anti-racism laws to preserve harmony", 4 October 2022. See:

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/10/04/nazri-calls-for-anti-racism-laws-to-preserve-harmony/>

<sup>149</sup> Malay Mail, "Racial, religious polemics reduced since Keluarga Malaysia concept introduced, says PM", 8 October 2022. See:

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/10/08/racial-religious-polemics-reduced-since-keluarga-malaysia-concept-introduced-says-pm/32520>

<sup>150</sup> (Translation) Utusan, "DAP dreams of contesting in Malay majority seats", 8 October 2022. See:

<https://www.utusan.com.my/berita/2022/10/dap-idam-kerusi-parlimen-majoriti-melayu/>

<sup>151</sup> (Translation) Astro Awani, "Reject candidates who poison the unity among Sarawakian - Uggah", 15 October 2022. See:

<https://www.astroawani.com/berita-politik/tolak-calon-yang-menuang-tuba-dalam-perpaduan-rakyat-sarawak-uggah-386093>

<sup>152</sup> (Translation) Free Malaysia Today, "PH defends all races, not only the Malays, says Anwar", 15 October 2022. See:

<https://www.msn.com/en-my/news/berita/ph-pertahan-semua-kaum-bukan-hanya-melayu-kata-anwar/ar-AA12ZqtT>

<sup>153</sup> (Translation) Utusan, "BN will not only fight for a particular race, or religion", 20 October 2022. See:

<https://www.utusan.com.my/terkini/2022/10/bn-tidak-akan-berjuang-hanya-untuk-kaum-agama-tertentu/>

<sup>154</sup> (Translation) MalaysiaGazette, "Guan Eng questions measly allocations for Indians, Chinese in Budget 2023", 24 October 2022. See:

<https://malaysiagazette.com/2022/10/24/guan-eng-persoal-peruntukan-rendah-bajet-2023-kepada-india-cina/>

<sup>155</sup> Free Malaysia Today, "Syed Saddiq 'raps' political message of equality in Deepavali clip", 24 October 2022. See:

1 November 2022	National Unity Ministry conducted 'Semarak Uniti Keluarga Malaysia' programme across the country to unite Malaysians <sup>156</sup>
1 November 2022	DAP veteran Lim Kit Siang stated that Ketuanan Malaysia is needed instead of Ketuanan Melayu <sup>157</sup>
5 November 2022	Inspector-General of Police warned candidates against touching on sensitive issues that could disrupt public order during GE15 campaign period <sup>158</sup>
7 November 2022	BN proposed languages of all other ethnicities be taught in national schools at basic level in GE15 manifesto <sup>159</sup>
8 November 2022	Independent GE15 Orang Asli candidate promised to take care of all races <sup>160</sup>
10 November 2022	Police warned against circulation of videos that touched on issues of religion and race <sup>161</sup>
14 November 2022	PH expressed intent to create Anti-Hatred act upon victory in GE15 <sup>162</sup>
21 November 2022	Police issued warning to the public against uploading provocative content on social media after May 13 TikTok posts surface post-GE15 <sup>163</sup>

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/10/24/syed-saddiq-raps-political-message-of-equality-in-deepavali-clip/>

<sup>156</sup> (Translation) Berita RTM, "Semarak Uniti Keluarga Malaysia, to unite Malaysians using various elements", 1 November 2022. See:

<https://berita.rtm.gov.my/~berita/index.php/semasa/50018-semarak-unity-keluarga-malaysia-satu-padu-rakyat-dengan-pelbagai-elemen>

<sup>157</sup> New Straits Times, "GE15: We need Ketuanan Malaysia, not Ketuanan Melayu, says Kit Siang", 1 November 2022. See: <https://www.nst.com.my/news/politics/2022/11/845800/ge15-we-need-ketuanan-malaysia-not-ketuanan-melayu-says-kit-siang>

<sup>158</sup> The Star, "GE15: Don't touch on sensitive issues during campaigning, IGP tells candidates", 5 November 2022. See: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2022/11/05/ge15-dont-touch-on-sensitive-issues-during-campaigning-igp-tells-candidates>

<sup>159</sup> (Translation) Berita Harian, "BN Manifesto: Languages of all ethnic groups to be taught in national schools", 7 November 2022. See: <https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/11/1022451/manifesto-bn-semua-bahasa-etnik-diajar-di-sekolah-kebangsaan>

<sup>160</sup> (Translation) Sinar Harian, "I represent the Orang Asli, but I take care of all races", 8 November 2022. See:

<https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/230043/berita/politik/saya-wakil-orang-asli-tapi-boleh-jaga-semua-bangsa>

<sup>161</sup> (Translation) Sinar Harian, "Police calls upon the public to stop circulating videos on religion, race", 10 November 2022. See:

<https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/230516/berita/semasa/polis-arah-henti-sebar-video-sentuh-agama-perkauman>

<sup>162</sup> (Translation) Utusan, "PH to table anti-hate speech law if wins GE15", 14 November 2022. See:

<https://www.utusan.com.my/berita/2022/11/ph-mahu-wujud-akta-anti-kebencian-jika-menang-pru15/>

<sup>163</sup> (Translation) Astro Awani, "GE15: Police warns of social media updates that contain racist elements", 21 November 2022. See:

<https://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/pru15-kemas-kini-berunsur-perkauman-di-laman-sosial-pdrm-beri-amaran-392990>

22 November 2022	PH leaders called for immediate action against those spreading videos propagating racial sentiments which target children <sup>164</sup>
22 November 2022	TikTok stated that they are on 'high alert' and are 'aggressively' removing hate content post-GE15 <sup>165</sup>
23 November 2022	Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani urged political parties to stop using race, religion for own political interests <sup>166</sup>
23 November 2022	DAP activist 'Superman Hew' nabbed over an alleged racially-charged GE15 speech <sup>167</sup>
26 November 2022	AMANAH made police report against social media users for sparking religious issues <sup>168</sup>
30 November 2022	Negeri Sembilan ruler Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir urged politicians to stop using racial or religious issues to incite Malaysians against one another <sup>169</sup>
30 November 2022	PKR leader mooted anti-hate speech law amid rising incendiary attacks <sup>170</sup>
2 December 2022	MCMC expressed commitment to expediting review of content management framework <sup>171</sup>
5 December 2022	Minister Fahmi contacted TikTok Malaysia representatives to explain regulatory mechanism on hate speech and propaganda clips <sup>172</sup>

<sup>164</sup> New Straits Times, "Racially-motivated videos on TikTok targeting children - PH leaders, parents want it stopped", 22 November 2022. See:

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/11/853674/racially-motivated-videos-tiktok-targeting-children-ph-leaders-parents>

<sup>165</sup> (Translation) Malay Mail, "TikTok monitoring video contents with racist elements", 23 November 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/11/22/tiktok-says-on-high-alert-aggressively-removing-hate-content-post-ge15/41334>

<sup>166</sup> The Vibes, "Stop using race, religion for own political interests, urges Johari Ghani", 23 November 2022. See: <https://www.thevibes.com/articles/news/78236/stop-using-race-religion-for-own-political-interests-urges-johari-ghani>

<sup>167</sup> New Straits Times, "DAP activist 'Superman Hew' nabbed over GE15 speech", 23 November 2022. See: <https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2022/11/854288/dap-activist-superman-hew-nabbed-over-ge15-speech>

<sup>168</sup> (Translation) Harian Metro, "Amanah lodges police report against social media users that incite racial tension", 26 November 2022. See: <https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2022/11/908519/amanah-buat-laporan-polis-pengguna-media-sosial-cetus-isu-perkauman>

<sup>169</sup>Free Malaysia Today, "Stop inciting people with race, religion, Tuanku Muhriz tells leaders", 30 November 2022. See: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/11/30/stop-inciting-people-with-race-religion-tuanku-muhriz-tells-leaders/>

<sup>170</sup>Malaysiakini, "PKR leader moots anti-hate speech law amid rising incendiary attacks", 30 November 2022. See: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/646376>

<sup>171</sup> Malay Mail, "Online hate: MCMC says committed to expediting review of content management framework", 2 December 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/12/02/online-hate-mcmc-says-committed-to-expediting-review-of-content-management-framework/43166>

<sup>172</sup> Malay Mail, "Minister Fahmi calls up local TikTok reps to explain regulatory mechanism on hate speech, propaganda clips", 2 December 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/12/05/minister-fahmi-calls-up-local-tiktok-reps-to-explain-regulatory-mechanism-on-hate-speech-propaganda-clips/43508>

11 December 2022	Education Ministry probed bullying claim after Prime Minister had shared bully victim's letter on social media <sup>173</sup>
12 December 2022	Hannah Yeoh stated that she is colour-blind as an MP and that representatives should serve all <sup>174</sup>
15 December 2022	Education minister warned that stern action will be taken to curb extremism and racism in schools <sup>175</sup>
20 December 2022	Perak ruler Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah stated that immediate action is needed to stop extreme religious and ethnic views <sup>176</sup>

An overview of the incidents included in this section has revealed that most of the statements, commitments, efforts or actions were made by politicians or representatives of political parties (27 incidents), followed by Ministers and Deputy Ministers (12 incidents), the Rulers (6 incidents), the Police (5 incidents), and subsequent incidents by entities of the other categories.

Statements made by politicians or representatives of political parties mainly revolve around the theme of rights and equality; calling out against and making efforts to curb racial politics; making multiracial politics as their agenda; and listing out the possibilities of coming up with laws to mitigate hate speech and racism should they are given the chance to lead the country as part of their campaign speeches.

Prior to the 15th General Elections (GE15), statements by Ministers and Deputy Ministers largely focuses on positive messages pertaining to the importance of preserving and promoting national unity during the festivities; efforts on the promotion of national unity by the government; and what Malaysia can offer to the world in terms of our experience in managing Islamophobia. As we drew nearer to GE15, we have observed the change in the statements made by them which are more centred on having a political campaign without elements of racial hatred. Shortly after GE15, we have witnessed statements made by the newly minted Ministers that were more geared towards managing issues of racial hatred videos that were viralled on social media platforms instantly after GE15 and we have noticed that they are putting more emphasis on curbing racism in public schools.

Preceding GE15, decrees made by the Rulers were mainly on promotion of Malaysian multiculturalism and how the religious approach in Malaysia should be free from elements of racism and disharmony. As we approach GE15, we have noticed that the decree made by the Rulers are more crafted in ways putting racial unity as key in the countries' well-being and steering away from conflict and as soon as GE15 ended, we saw that the Ruler has made it clear for the politicians to stop inciting racial tension among the communities in the country.

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<sup>173</sup> New Straits Times, "Education Ministry probing bullying claim after PM shares victim's letter on social media", 11 December 2022. See: <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/12/859875/education-ministry-probing-bullying-claim-after-pm-shares-victims-letter>

<sup>174</sup> Malay Mail, "Hannah Yeoh: I am colourblind as an MP, reps should serve all", 12 December 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/12/12/hannah-yeoh-i-am-colourblind-as-an-mp-reps-should-serve-all/44763>

<sup>175</sup> Malay Mail, "Education minister warns stern action to curb extremism, racism in schools", 15 December 2022. See: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2022/12/15/education-minister-warns-stern-action-to-curb-extremism-racism-in-schools/45431>

<sup>176</sup> New Straits Times, "Sultan Nazrin: Immediate action needed to stop extreme religious, ethnic views", 20 December 2022. See: <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/12/862646/sultan-nazrin-immediate-action-needed-stop-extreme-religious-ethnic-views>

These changes in language and messaging could be understood as a signal that the Rulers are speaking in ways that reflect the sentiments of the people and we believe that such messaging should be further amplified to remind those in power to refrain from misusing race and religion to suit their political agenda.

While the incidents mentioned above are important as they formed a large part of this section, it is also worth noting statements made by the police that were largely centred on curbing circulation of videos on social media that are deemed racially insensitive and allegedly provoking hate towards the other ethnic groups in Malaysia during the GE15 campaigning period. We believe that these actions are important as they serve to bring assurance to the people that the country's safety and security are well taken care of by the authorities and issues of racial sensitivities are not taken lightly in Malaysia.

Efforts to promote national unity have also been done in the entertainment sector. Through the incidents that we have included in this report, calls have been made by actors for more non-Malays casts; the calling out against the use of racial slurs; and also production of rap music to promote better ethnic relations and poem recital event to gather art enthusiasts from different ethnic groups to enjoy the beauty of poem together. It is good to see that the art and entertainment community are putting serious thought into the promotion of national unity within the community.

Important calls and actions related to key areas in building better ethnic relations that deserves attention is the call made by a former economist for the government to look into scraping the National Economic Policy (NEP) to a needs-based policy; and the decision by Perak Tengah local council to retract its restaurant operation hours ban during Ramadan following backlash on social media. Discussions on the NEP has been a long one and oftentimes have taken place in closed-door forums and by including it in this report, we believe that such conversations should be amplified in the public space with a much wider audience. Perak Tengah local council should be applauded for their actions as it is not an easy task to review the decisions that they have made and be accountable to the people.

In sports, we have included incidents that call for a more inclusive composition of team members in certain sports that are made up largely of one ethnic group; and incidents citing commitment of the National Sports Council to prioritise quality in the athlete selection process instead of ethnic preference. These incidents should be a reminder to us as sports are also not free from racism and racial discrimination as revealed by previous years' Malaysia Racism Report and continuous monitoring should be made to point out such incidents.

In this edition of Malaysia Racism Report, we have included actions from the business sector such as Mr DIY's action against its manager that practises racism in hiring and Tiktok's commitment in removing hateful contents on the platform. All this while, there has been an impression that the business sector is free of any accountability when it comes to issues of racism and racial discrimination but these incidents have proven otherwise. These incidents should be emulated by other companies in the business sector to promote better ethnic relations and national unity in Malaysia.

# Special Report: The Monitoring Project of the 15th General Elections in Malaysia

## Introduction

After two unprecedented changes of governments without elections, Malaysia held its 15th General Elections (GE15) on the 19th of November 2022. The elections have seen an overwhelming number of contenders in the election: the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition which governed Malaysia for 61 years until 2018, the Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition which took over in 2018 and then collapsed in 2020, the Perikatan Nasional (PN) coalition which came to power in 2020 and the newly-registered Gerakan Tanah Air (GTA) coalition led by former premier Tun Dr Mahathir and many other candidates.

Race and religion have played and continue to play a huge role in Malaysian politics. Whenever an election comes around, sentiments of race and religion will be used to win support, while contemporary news might be racialised or discussed in a religious manner. This is supported by Pusat KOMAS' monitoring projects on previous elections (14th General Elections, Malacca and Johor State Elections).

With especially high stakes in this particular election, we believe that the use of race and religion will be exacerbated in GE15. Hence, Pusat KOMAS decided to monitor the incidents of racial and religious politics during the election campaign from the 5th to 18th of November. The monitoring project had the following objectives:

- (1) To examine the use of race and religion by politicians and other influential or interested persons and parties in political campaigns;
- (2) To call out such instances of racial or religious politics and warn the public against voting for the candidates and the relevant political parties.

## Method

Pusat KOMAS identified incidents of racism, racial and religious discrimination based on international standards of racial discrimination and racism as defined by international human rights bodies such as the Office of High Commissioner of Human Rights:

- (1) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) had set out the definition of racism in their publication Dimensions of Racism: "a **construct** that **assigns a certain race and/or ethnic group to a position of power over others** on the basis of physical and cultural attributes, as well as economic wealth, involving hierarchical relations where the 'superior' race exercises domination and control over others". It includes racist ideologies, prejudiced behaviour, structural arrangements and institutionalised practices resulting in racial inequality as well as the fallacious notion that discriminatory relations between groups are morally and scientifically justifiable. Racism is a deep-rooted belief where one group feels superior to another. It can be openly displayed in racial jokes, slurs or hate crime. For purposes of this report, we also included constructs that assign a certain religion over others.
- (2) Article 1, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) defines **racial discrimination** as "any **distinction, exclusion,**

**restriction or preference** based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.” For purposes of this report, we also included distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion.

- (3) Article 4, ICERD specifies the responsibility of nations to “condemn all propaganda and all organisations which are based on **ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin**, or which attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form, and undertake to adopt immediate and positive measures designed to eradicate all incitement to, or acts of, such discrimination.” For purposes of this report, we also included ideas or theories of superiority of one religion which promote religious hatred and discrimination.

Members of the Pusat KOMAS’ non-discrimination team monitored mainstream news portals as well as each of their own social media accounts (covering Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok) on a daily basis. Members specifically looked out for instances where:

- (1) A person or party with considerable political influence and/or substantial stake in gaining victory or benefits in the elections
- (2) Has made **statements** which concern an ethnic or religious group and carry a foreseeable effect of influencing said racial or religious group to vote for or against a particular candidate or political party based on the factor of race or religion (may or may not involve racial or religious tensions or animosity)

OR

Has carried out **actions** which provoke racial or religious tensions or animosity, or actions which clearly show preference towards or exclusion against a racial or religious group.

## Trends of Racial and Religious Politics in GE15

Based on 14 days of monitoring, a total of 24 incidents were recorded and compiled in the monitoring project (refer to Table 1). Day 11 of the campaign saw the highest number of incidents, while Day 4, Day 8 and Day 14 recorded none.

Table 11. Number of incidents recorded across the two weeks of election campaigning

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Number of incidents	3	3	1	0	1	3	1
	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	<b>Day 11</b>	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14
Number of incidents	0	1	1	<b>5</b>	2	3	0

All incidents were **statements** or **remarks of racial or religious rhetoric and sentiments** with the foreseeable effect of influencing voters to vote for or against a particular candidate or

political party based on the factor of race or religion. There were no incidents of discrimination captured during this monitoring project.

Based on the analysis of the incidents that took place, we observed several trends of racial and religious politics in the elections campaign:

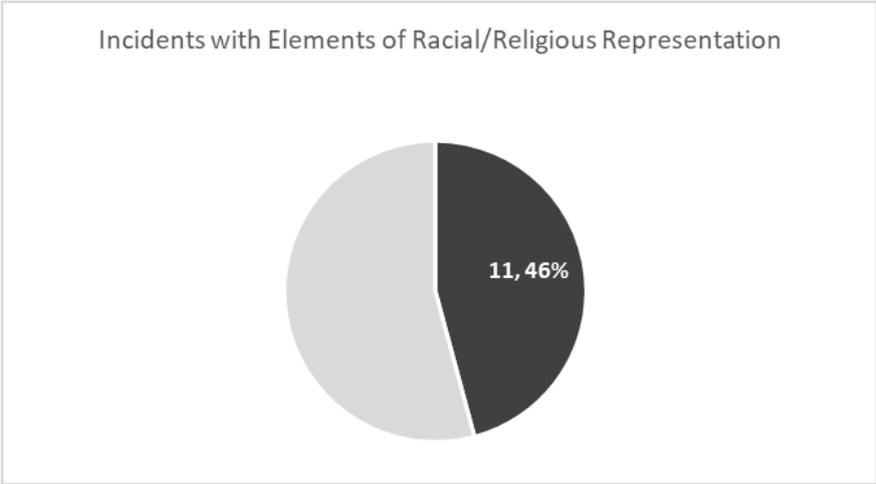
(1) Racial and/or Religious Representation

In this trend, a political party based on or a candidate of a particular race or religion claims that they are the only suitable party or candidate to represent the corresponding racial or religious group, promising substantial improvement of the welfare of said group. Statements that fall within this trend often sound like:

- A. Ensuring that the welfare of the racial and/or religious group will be taken care of (refer to Items 3, 6, 10, 20, 23 in Appendix)
- B. Ensuring louder representation for the racial and/or religious group in Parliament (refer to Items 2, 7, 11, 18 in Appendix)
- C. Claiming that candidates or political parties of another race or religion will not be able to sufficiently represent interests of one racial and/or religious group (refer to Items 7, 9 in Appendix)

Out of the 24 recorded incidents, 11 of them were found to have elements of this trend (see Graph 5.)

Graph 5. Number of recorded incidents which have elements of Racial and/or Religious Representation, measured against the total number of incidents (24)



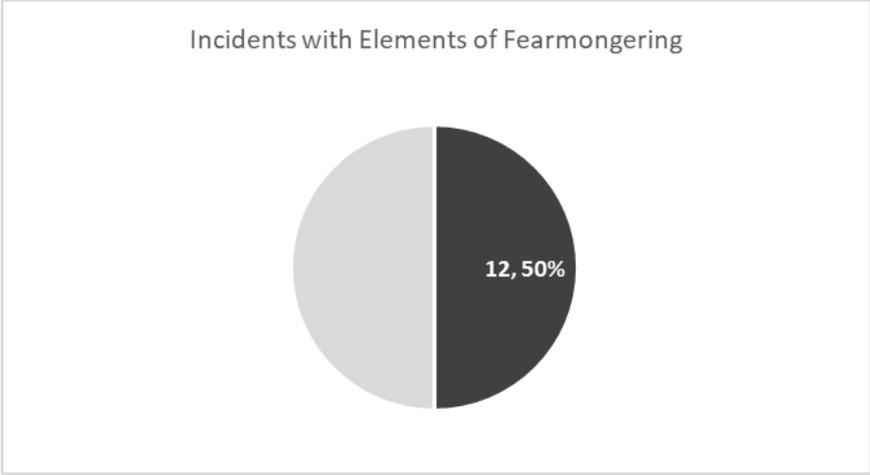
(2) Fearmongering

In this trend, political parties or candidates evoke fears and insecurities of a racial or religious group who perceive themselves as disadvantaged and in need of help or protection. Statements that fall within this trend often sound like:

- A. Fear of being dominated by other races or religions (refer to Items 4, 8, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24 in Appendix)
- B. Fear of being deceived by other races or religions (refer to Items 8, 12, 19, 21, 24 in Appendix)
- C. Fear of being undermined or disadvantaged by other races or religions (refer to Items 5, 10, 11, 22 in Appendix)

Out of the 24 recorded incidents, 12 of them were found to have elements of this trend, which makes fearmongering the most used trend of racial and religious politics (by a very small margin) as monitored by Pusat KOMAS for the 15<sup>th</sup> General Elections (see Graph 6.)

Graph 6. Number of recorded incidents which have elements of Fearmongering, measured against the total number of incidents (24)



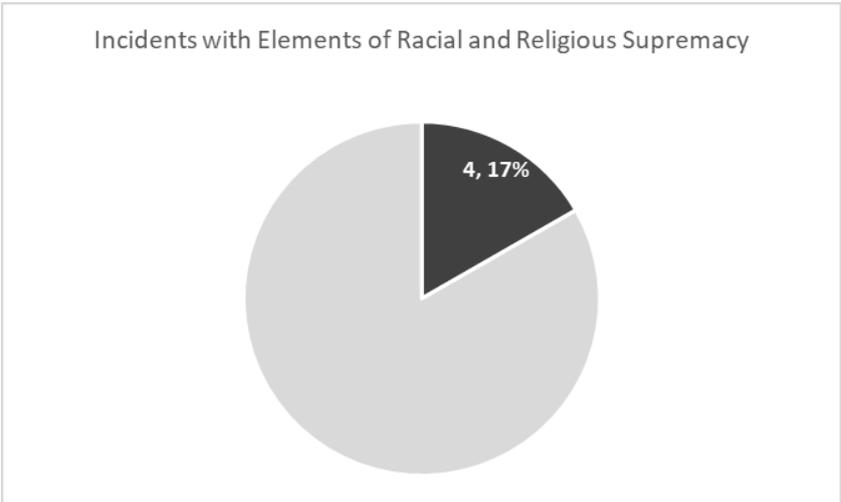
(3) Racial and Religious Supremacy

In this trend, political parties or candidates directly promote or make statements based on the belief that one race or religion is superior to others or have more rights than others in the country. They tend to provoke a particular racial or religious group to assert dominance over other races or religions, likely at the expense of the latter. Statements that fall within this trend often sound like:

- A. Threat towards other races or religions (refer to Item 16 in Appendix)
- B. Instigation of violence towards other races or religions (refer to Item 13 in Appendix)
- C. Vulgarity (refer to Item 32 in Appendix)
- D. Promise of ethnic dominance (refer to Item 49 in Appendix)

Out of the 24 recorded incidents, only 4 of them were found to have elements of this trend (see Graph 7.)

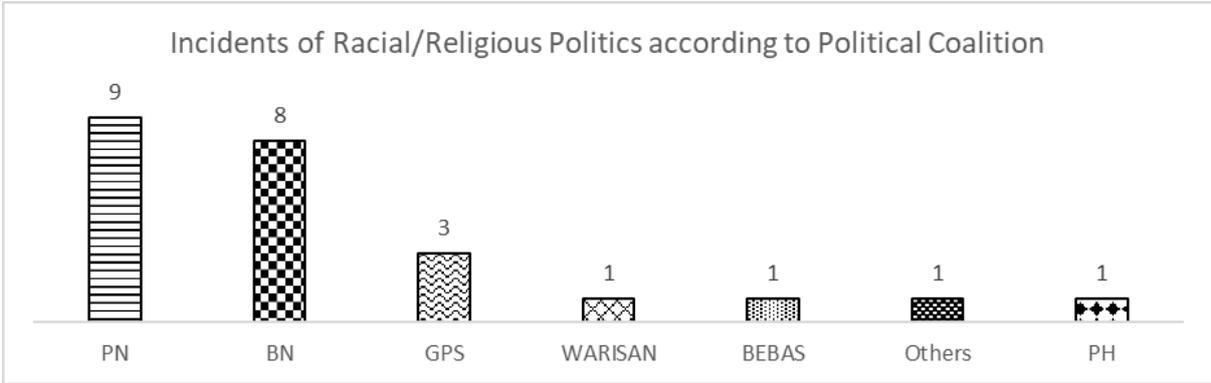
Graph 7. Number of recorded incidents which have elements of Racial and Religious Supremacy, measured against the total number of incidents (24)



Most of the statements were uttered by **politicians who were running for candidacy** in the elections, as compared to other speakers such as politicians who were not running for candidacy and non-politicians.

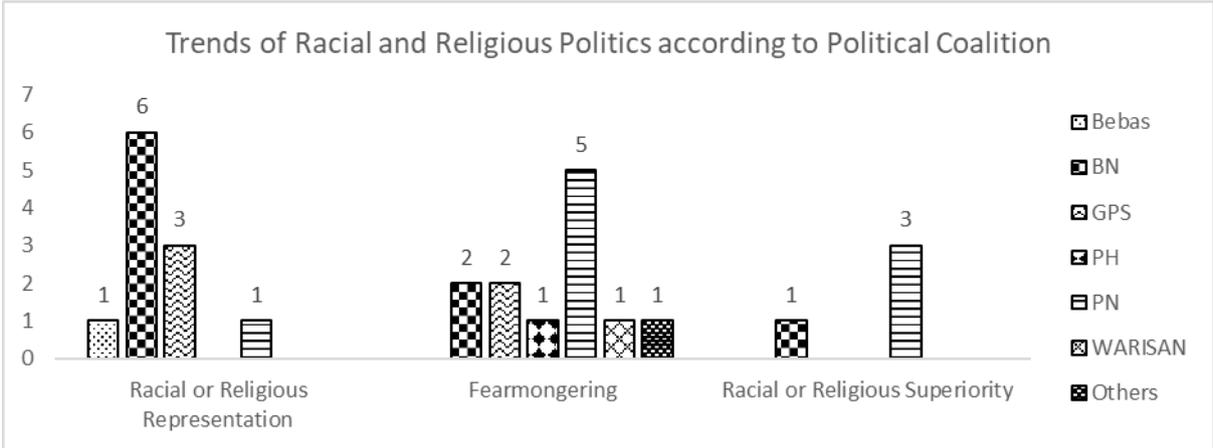
### Political Coalitions’ Use of Racial or Religious Politics

Graph 8. Number of recorded incidents of racial or religious politics according to political coalition



Among the political parties and coalitions involved in the elections, Perikatan Nasional (PN) and Barisan Nasional (BN) were responsible for most of the incidents recorded, in that a candidate or politician from these coalitions used statements of racial rhetoric more than candidates or politicians from other coalitions (see Graph 8). The only incident which had no clear indicators of the perpetrator in terms of political coalition was the incident where news presenters from Awesome TV warned the Malays against voting for Pakatan Harapan (PH); however, the statement was clearly racial and political as a race was clearly addressed as target audience and a political coalition had been named.

Graph 9. Number of recorded incidents in each trend of racial and religious politics according to political coalition)



Upon analysis of how each political coalition uses racial and religious politics, it was found that PN was responsible for more messages of Fearmongering and Racial or Religious Supremacy than other coalitions, whereas BN was responsible for more messages of Racial and/or Religious Representation (see Graph 9). Generally speaking, most political coalitions partook in spreading the message of Fearmongering, while very few promoted Racial or Religious Superiority.

### Post-GE15

In the aftermath of GE15, where the nation bated her breath to see what would happen after the first hung Parliament ensued from the election results, racially and/or religiously tinged short videos appeared on social media platforms, specifically TikTok, which alarmed Malaysians. Short videos directly mentioning the May 13 racial riots were found, some insinuating that a similar event might happen soon while others incited people to take up arms. The latter type of videos was more cryptic, having less text, but sometimes depicted images of weapons, such as the keris or machetes, which further hinted at possibility of violence. These videos also fanned the flames of misinformation and disinformation around the May 13 incident, which already suffers from lack of transparency in terms of reporting and lack of proper education in public school history lessons. These videos garnered many views, up to tens and hundreds of thousands on average. In response to these videos, many netizens began speaking up about their concerns on their own social media platforms, while politicians and even the police issued public statements to warn those who were posting such videos. TikTok Malaysia also responded to the incident by removing the videos which they regard as 'hate speech' and 'violent extremism', however the response time might have been too late seeing that the misinformation and disinformation had already spread far and wide, causing fear and tension among Malaysians.

## Recommendations and Conclusions

Based on the findings from this social media monitoring project, it is alarming that race and/or religion continues to be an effective political tool used by politicians, political parties and associated members to garner support and votes. Though the use of race and/or religion may have short term benefits for the politicians and political party, the use of race and/or religion may intensify ethnic divides, evoking negative emotions and fear against other races, creating distrust and interracial animosity.

Therefore, we call upon all politicians and political parties to take immediate steps to **stop the use of race and religion politics**. Politicians should pursue policy actions that truly benefit constituents of all races and religions and not favour a particular ethnic group. It is hypocritical that at one end politicians themselves claim to not leave any ethnic groups behind while at the other end they vilify other racial and ethnic groups, making allegations or claims that belittle other ethnic groups. Coalition parties should stop playing the race and religion card in their campaigns and messages. They need to stop their hypocrisy before the situation becomes worse and beyond repair.

We also call upon voters to **hold their elected representatives accountable**. As voters, we have the responsibility to carefully scrutinise our electoral candidates before voting for them. We need to choose wisely and denounce politicians and political parties that exploit race and religion for their own benefit. It is hoped that there will be a drop in the use of race and religion in the future elections.

## Appendix

No.	Date	Incident	Link
1	5/11/22	<b>Penyokong BN di Ayer Hitam</b> gelar Calon PH Ayer Hitam, Sheikh Umar Bagharib Ali sebagai “anjing Cina”	<a href="https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/642751">https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/642751</a>
2	5/11/22	<b>Calon Kota Tampan / Menteri Besar Perak Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad</b> meminta pengundi Cina dan India mencontohi pengundi bukan Melayu yang membuat keputusan semasa pilihan raya negeri di Johor dan Melaka. “... Akibatnya sekarang ini kebanyakan kerajaan negeri seperti Perak mereka tiada wakil daripada orang Cina dan India. Harapan saya supaya mereka mengambil iktibar kali ini orang Cina dan India kembalilah memberi sokongan kepada BN,” kata beliau.	<a href="https://malaysiagazette.com/2022/11/05/saarani-seru-pengundi-cina-india-kembali-sokong-bn/">https://malaysiagazette.com/2022/11/05/saarani-seru-pengundi-cina-india-kembali-sokong-bn/</a>
3	5/11/22	<b>Calon bebas di Beserah Joseph Tang Saing Yew</b> bertanding untuk membela nasib kaum Cina dalam menyelesaikan masalah pengundi di kawasan terbabit. “Saya cuba nasib kerana saya mahu jaga kawasan penduduk Cina, sebab dari dulu saya tidak pernah nampak YB (wakil rakyat) atau calon lain datang di kawasan penduduk Cina. Jadi, saya rasa saya ada peluang untuk jaga pengundi Cina.”	<a href="https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/229541/berita/politik/calon-bebas-mahu-bela-nasib-kaum-cina">https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/229541/berita/politik/calon-bebas-mahu-bela-nasib-kaum-cina</a>
4	6/11/22	<b>Penyampai berita Awesome TV</b> didakwa mengeluarkan kenyataan bersifat perkauman. “Semua pengundi Melayu mesti keluar mengundi untuk menunaikan kewajipan sivik mereka jika mereka tidak mahu kuasa politik dikuasai oleh kaum lain... jika Pakatan Harapan (PH) menang.”	<a href="https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2022/11/900576/pru-15-penyampai-berita-awesome-tv-berita-757-didakwa-keluarkan-kenyataan">https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2022/11/900576/pru-15-penyampai-berita-awesome-tv-berita-757-didakwa-keluarkan-kenyataan</a>
5	6/11/22	<b>Calon Marang / Presiden PAS Abdul Hadi Awang</b> mengemukakan siaran FB yang bersifat perkauman. “Hari ini kita menyaksikan kuasa undi orang Melayu semakin rendah kerana berlakunya persempadanan semula yang tidak memihak kepada kawasan majoriti orang Melayu.”	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/abdulhadiawang/posts/pfbid02uhckhvoQwWPH6S65CKZVSZhWfrjaYPAjyguwtu4YhKFXD1EpfxcBPye9QzH1f6RjI">https://www.facebook.com/abdulhadiawang/posts/pfbid02uhckhvoQwWPH6S65CKZVSZhWfrjaYPAjyguwtu4YhKFXD1EpfxcBPye9QzH1f6RjI</a>
6	6/11/22	<b>Calon BN di Ayer Hitam / Presiden MCA Wee Ka Siong</b> menyeru kepada pengundi Cina, “For me, as the president of MCA, I make my request to everyone - I need more votes in order to win, especially the Chinese votes which are more important to me - please vote for me so that I can have greater capacity/ability to do more in the government for the Chinese community, and fight for more benefits. (penterjemahan)”	<a href="https://www.orientaldaily.com.my/news/nation/2022/11/06/523958">https://www.orientaldaily.com.my/news/nation/2022/11/06/523958</a>
7	7/11/22	<b>Calon Kota Tinggi / Naib Presiden UMNO Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin</b> berhasrat untuk angkat isu Melayu dengan lebih lantang daripada sebelumnya. “Satu parti yang mewakili orang Melayu kerana di Parlimen, kita mesti bercakap mengenai Melayu.”	<a href="https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/2022/11/pru15-khaled-akan-lantang-angkat-isu-melayu/">https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/2022/11/pru15-khaled-akan-lantang-angkat-isu-melayu/</a>
8	9/11/22	<b>Calon Bera / Perdana Menteri kerajaan sementara Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob</b> mengingatkan rakyat supaya tidak terperangkap dengan permainan Pakatan Harapan (PH) yang meletakkan calon Melayu daripada DAP. “Walaupun PH meletakkan wakil Melayu seperti di Parlimen Ayer Hitam tetapi di belakangnya adalah DAP. Ini bermakna satu undi untuk PH adalah satu undi untuk DAP.”	<a href="https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/11/1023316/pru15-jangan-terperangkap-helah-dap-pm">https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/11/1023316/pru15-jangan-terperangkap-helah-dap-pm</a>

9	10/11/22	<b>Calon Bentong Liow Tiong Lai</b> berkata MCA adalah satu-satunya parti yang boleh menawarkan pengalaman unik ini kepada masyarakat Cina. “Inilah sebabnya kami menggesa rakyat Cina Malaysia agar kembali kepada parti untuk memberikan MCA dan anda sendiri suara yang kuat di Parlimen, kerajaan dan dalam Jemaah Menteri.”	<a href="https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/bahasa/empatan/2022/11/10/masyarakat-cina-perlu-suara-kuat-di-parlimen-kerajaan-kata-liow/">https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/bahasa/empatan/2022/11/10/masyarakat-cina-perlu-suara-kuat-di-parlimen-kerajaan-kata-liow/</a>
10	10/11/22	<b>Timbalan Premier Sarawak Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan (ADUN Bukit Sari)</b> menyeru etnik Lun Bawang bersatu untuk membawa kemenangan kepada Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) khususnya di Parlimen Lawas. Sekiranya perpecahan dalam kaum minoriti itu terus berlaku, ia akan merugikan mereka dalam mengecapi kemajuan dan pembangunan pada masa depan.	<a href="https://sarawakvoice.com/2022/11/10/kaum-minoriti-elak-berpecah-sokong-penuh-gps/">https://sarawakvoice.com/2022/11/10/kaum-minoriti-elak-berpecah-sokong-penuh-gps/</a>
11	10/11/22	<b>Naib Presiden Parti Demokratik Progresif (PDP) Datuk Henry Harry Jinep (ADUN Tasik Biru)</b> berkata, GPS harus menang di tiga kawasan Parlimen dalam memastikan perwakilan yang kuat untuk kira-kira 200,000 kaum Bidayuh di Parlimen.	<a href="https://sarawakvoice.com/2022/11/10/perwakilan-kuat-wakili-suara-200000-bidayuh/">https://sarawakvoice.com/2022/11/10/perwakilan-kuat-wakili-suara-200000-bidayuh/</a>
12	11/11/22	<b>Calon Marang / Presiden PAS Abdul Hadi Awang</b> bimbang DAP calonkan ramai orang Melayu	<a href="https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/643666">https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/643666</a>
13	13/11/22	<b>Pelakon Zul Huzaimy</b> mengeluarkan kenyataan mahu menyebelih orang bukan Islam dalam satu program anjuran PAS di Terengganu	<a href="https://twitter.com/KroniRakyat/status/1591587182661480448">https://twitter.com/KroniRakyat/status/1591587182661480448</a>
14	14/11/22	<b>Calon Teluk Intan / Pengerusi DAP Perak Nga Kor Ming</b> memberi amaran Malaysia akan jadi macam Afghanistan sekiranya PAS mentadbir	<a href="https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/11/14/daps-nga-sounds-another-taliban-warning/">https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/11/14/daps-nga-sounds-another-taliban-warning/</a>
15	15/11/22	<b>Calon Gunong Semanggol / Pesuruhjaya PAS Negeri Perak Razman Zakaria</b> berkata bahawa “Perikatan Nasional (PN) is the best bet to preserve Malay-Muslim dominance in Perak”	<a href="https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/644316">https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/644316</a>
16	15/11/22	<b>Calon Marang / Presiden PAS Abdul Hadi Awang</b> Hadi Awang mengeluarkan kenyataan bersifat perkauman. “Tiada siapa yang dapat meminda ketetapan Allah mahupun mencabarnya termasuklah golongan yang mahu mengubah kewujudan bangsa di Malaysia mengikut selera fikirannya...”	<a href="https://twitter.com/paspusata/status/1592360896000856064/">https://twitter.com/paspusata/status/1592360896000856064/</a>
17	15/11/22	<b>Calon Pagoh / Bekas Perdana Menteri Muhyiddin Yassin</b> menyeru pengundi Melayu memberi sokongan kepada Perikatan Nasional. “Tell this to all the voters, especially Malays... I want to make sure at least 80 percent of Malay support us and PN can form a government... What will happen if BN or Pakatan Harapan win? You have the obligation and duty to save the country.”	<a href="https://www.kinity.com/en/kininews/120512">https://www.kinity.com/en/kininews/120512</a>
18	15/11/22	<b>Timbalan Presiden Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) Datuk Roland Sagah Wee Inn (ADUN Tarat)</b> berhasrat menang tiga kerusi Bidayuh. It is important for GPS to win by a big majority in the three Bidayuh seats to give them a louder voice particularly in voicing out the needs of the community.	<a href="https://www.theborneopost.com/2022/11/15/gps-aims-for-clean-sweep-of-all-3-bidayuh-seats-in-ge15-says-sagah/">https://www.theborneopost.com/2022/11/15/gps-aims-for-clean-sweep-of-all-3-bidayuh-seats-in-ge15-says-sagah/</a>
19	15/11/22	<b>Calon Marang / Presiden PAS Abdul Hadi Awang</b> risau terhadap calon-calon Melayu yang dipergunakan oleh Parti Tindakan Demokratik (DAP)	<a href="https://twitter.com/abdulhadiawang/status/1592320002656727041/">https://twitter.com/abdulhadiawang/status/1592320002656727041/</a>

20	16/11/22	<b>Perikatan Nasional</b> melancarkan handbook bagi masyarakat India (link taken down)	<a href="https://www.astroawani.com/berita-politik/pelancaran-handbook-valimai-strength-perikatan-nasional-bagi-masyarakat-india-3918882">https://www.astroawani.com/berita-politik/pelancaran-handbook-valimai-strength-perikatan-nasional-bagi-masyarakat-india-3918882</a>
21	16/11/22	<b>Calon Tapah / Timbalan Presiden MIC Datuk Seri M. Saravanan</b> mengingatkan masyarakat India agar tidak mudah terpedaya dengan hasutan bencian pemimpin tertentu sehingga membawa penolakan kepada Barisan Nasional (BN).	<a href="https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/2022/11/jangan-terperangkap-sentimen-benci-pemimpin-hingga-tolak-bn/">https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/2022/11/jangan-terperangkap-sentimen-benci-pemimpin-hingga-tolak-bn/</a>
22	17/11/22	<b>Ketua Menteri Sabah Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor</b> menafikan dakwaan Parti Warisan (Warisan) kononnya kerajaan Sabah meminggirkan kaum Cina terutamanya dalam pentadbiran negeri itu.	<a href="https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/11/1027031/pru15-hajiji-nafi-sabah-pinggir-kaum-cina">https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/11/1027031/pru15-hajiji-nafi-sabah-pinggir-kaum-cina</a>
23	17/11/22	Kontraktor Melayu di bawah <b>Persatuan Kontraktor Melayu Malaysia (PKMM)</b> akan terus memberikan sokongan kepada Barisan Nasional (BN).	<a href="https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/politik/2022/11/pru15-kontraktor-melayu-di-bawah-pkmm-ikrar-sokong-bn/">https://www.utusan.com.my/nasional/politik/2022/11/pru15-kontraktor-melayu-di-bawah-pkmm-ikrar-sokong-bn/</a>
24	17/11/22	<b>PAS</b> mengulangi idea "Undi PH = Undi DAP"	<a href="https://twitter.com/paspusa/status/1593084687995797504">https://twitter.com/paspusa/status/1593084687995797504</a>

# Malaysia's Federal Constitution

The Federal Constitution of Malaysia is a written constitution that came into force in 1957 and is the **supreme law** of Malaysia consisting of a total of 183 Articles. The Constitution is an amalgamation of two former pieces of legislation namely the Federation of Malaya Agreement (1948) and the Independence Constitution (1957). The Federal Constitution of Malaysia establishes the Federation as a constitutional monarchy in which the Yang di-pertuan Agong rules as the Head of State and further established 3 branches of the government ie. the **Legislative** arm namely the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara (Senate), the **Judiciary** led by the Federal Court and the **Executive** arm led by the Prime Minister and his appointed Cabinet members. It contains specific provisions which safeguards the interest of all Malaysians. This section highlights specific provisions within the Federal Constitution which upholds equality and non-discrimination.

## Article 3

- (1) Islam is the religion of the Federation; but other religions may be practiced in peace and harmony in any part of the Federation.

## Article 4

- (1) This Constitution is the **supreme law of the Federation** and any law passed after Merdeka Day which is inconsistent with this Constitution shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.

## Article 8

- (1) All persons are equal before the law and entitled to the equal protection of the law.
- (2) Except as expressly authorised by this Constitution there shall be no discrimination against citizens on the ground only of religion, race, descent or place of birth in any law or in the appointment to any office or employment under a public authority or in the administration of any law relating to the acquisition holding or disposition of property or the establishing or carrying on of any trade, business, profession, vocation or employment
- (3) There shall be no discrimination in favour of a person on the ground that he is a subject of the Rule, of any State.
- (4) No public authority shall discriminate against any person on the ground that he is resident or carrying or business in any part of the Federation outside the jurisdiction of the authority.

## Article 12

- (1) Without prejudice to the generality of Article 8, there shall be no discrimination against any citizen on the grounds only of religion, race, descent or place of birth —
  - (a) in the administration of any educational institution maintained by a public authority, and, in particular, the admission of pupils or students or the payment of fees; or
  - (b) in providing out of the funds of a public authority financial aid for the maintenance or education of pupils or students in any educational institution (whether or not maintained by a public authority and whether within or outside the Federation).
- (2) Every religious group has the right to establish and maintain institutions for the education of children in its own religion, and there shall be no discrimination on the ground only of religion in any law relating to such institutions or in the administration of any such law; but it shall be lawful for the Federation or a State to establish or maintain or assist in establishing or maintaining Islamic institutions or provide or assist in providing instruction in the religion of Islam and incur such expenditure as may be necessary for the purpose.

**Article 153**

- (1) It shall be the responsibility of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to safeguard the special position of the Malays and natives of any of the States of Sabah and Sarawak and the legitimate interests of other communities in accordance with the provisions of this Article.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, but subject to the provisions of Article 40 and of this Article, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall exercise his functions under this Constitution and federal law in such manner as may be necessary to safeguard the special position of the Malays and natives of any of the States of Sabah and Sarawak and to ensure the reservation for Malays and natives of any of the States of Sabah and Sarawak of such proportion as he may deem reasonable of positions in the public service (other than the public service of a State) and of scholarships, exhibitions and other similar educational or training privileges or special facilities given or accorded by the Federal Government and, when any permit or licence for the operation of any trade or business is required by federal law, then, subject to the provisions of that law and this Article, of such permits and licences.
- (7) Nothing in this Article shall operate to deprive or authorize the deprivation of any person of any right, privilege, permit or licence accrued to or enjoyed or held by him or to authorize a refusal to renew to any person any such permit or licence or a refusal to grant to the heirs, successors or assigns of a person any permit or licence when the renewal or grant might reasonably be expected in the ordinary course of events.

# National Principles (Rukun Negara)

The National Principles (Rukun Negara) was introduced on 31 August 1970 by the Malaysian Government to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the nation's independence.

Its inception as a national ideology was deemed as a needed response to the "13 May" incident in 1969, following the general election in Malaysia. The outbreak of riots had resulted in the creation of the National Operations Council (*Majlis Gerakan Negara*) to restore peace and stability to Malaysia till 1971. Subsequently, the *Rukun Negara* was utilized to forge national unity among the citizens primarily through instilling its values and principles through education in schools. Presently, this ideology has become a guiding principle to encourage racial harmony and mutual respect.

In the **Preamble** of the National Principles, Malaysia nurtures the ambitions of:

- Achieving a more perfect unity amongst the whole of her society;
- Preserving a democratic way of life;
- Creating a just society where the prosperity of the country can be enjoyed together in a fair and equitable manner;
- Guaranteeing a liberal approach towards our traditional heritage that is rich and diverse
- Building a progressive society that will make use of science and modern technology.

## **Core Values**

WE, residents of Malaysia, pledge our united efforts to attain these ends guided by these principles:

- BELIEF IN GOD (Kepercayaan kepada Tuhan)
- LOYALTY TO KING AND COUNTRY (Kesetiaan kepada Raja dan Negara)
- SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION (Kedaulatan Perlembagaan)
- RULE OF LAW (Kedaulatan Undang-Undang)
- COURTESY AND MORALITY (Kesopanan dan kesusilaan)

# Malaysia's Voluntary Pledges and Commitments for the Candidature to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the Term 2022 – 2024<sup>177</sup>

Malaysia presents its candidacy for the membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the term 2022-2024 as it is confident that it would be able to serve as a constructive member of the Council. Malaysia is honoured to have been unanimously endorsed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as ASEAN's candidate to the Council.

If elected to the Human Rights Council, Malaysia pledges to:

- i. Take a whole-of-society approach in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, primarily in the assessment, monitoring and implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations
- ii. Cooperate with the OHCHR and other relevant United Nations agencies towards the promotion of human rights in the country and globally
- iii. Continue to engage constructively with the Human Rights Council (HRC) and its mechanisms while espousing a moderate and balanced perspective to nurture a spirit of cooperation
- iv. Implement policies and legislations that promote and protect the rights of the most vulnerable groups
- v. Strengthen efforts to achieve gender equality, women empowerment and eliminate violence against women
- vi. Take greater steps in engaging and empowering youth
- vii. Develop a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights
- viii. Intensify efforts to promote a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and improve understanding on the effects of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights
- ix. Continue to promote diversity through respect for cultural rights
- x. Continue to strengthen human rights institution and mechanism in Malaysia
- xi. Continue to engage constructively with all Member States and stakeholders towards the full realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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<sup>177</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, "MALAYSIA'S CANDIDATURE TO THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL FOR THE TERM 2022-2024: VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS", 6 April 2021. See: [https://www.kln.gov.my/web/usa\\_un-new-york/news-from-mission/-/blogs/malaysia-s-candidature-to-the-human-rights-council-term-2022-2024-voluntary-commitments-and-pledges](https://www.kln.gov.my/web/usa_un-new-york/news-from-mission/-/blogs/malaysia-s-candidature-to-the-human-rights-council-term-2022-2024-voluntary-commitments-and-pledges)

Towards fulfilling these pledges, Malaysia is committed to:-

- i. Undertaking and promoting a balanced, impartial, universal, non-politicised, and constructive approach to human rights issues at the HRC.
- ii. Deepening cooperation at the international level in supporting the work of various UN actors and mechanisms involved in the promotion and protection of human rights, including promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable, marginalised and minority communities in the country.
- iii. Upholding the principles of a whole-of-society approach by continuing to engage in inter-agency consultations with relevant stakeholders such as the NHRI (SUHAKAM) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in furthering the promotion and protection of human rights for its people.
- iv. Continuing to review the implementation of international human rights instruments that Malaysia is party to. The reviews had led to the withdrawal of several reservations to Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 2010.
- v. Engaging closely with the relevant stakeholders on the possibility of signing and ratifying the outstanding international conventions related to human rights, with the aim to achieving a precise and full understanding of the relevant rights and obligations, as well as to consider the possibility of reconciling the standard established by the said instruments with the Federal Constitution and domestic laws.
- vi. Intensifying efforts to raise human rights awareness among all segments of the population including the public service, such as law-enforcement officials, members of the judiciary, government officials and other stakeholders.
- vii. Improving its monitoring mechanism on the UPR process, by using the National Recommendation Tracking Database developed by the OHCHR
- viii. Supporting and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in realising the right to development, including support for ongoing efforts aimed at its operationalisation and implementation.
- ix. Sharing best practices with other Member States and interested partners, including on advancing the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, poverty eradication, health and education.
- x. Working continuously at the regional level with its partners under the ASEAN framework, in particular, with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in the promotion of human rights in the region.
- xi. Increasing its bilateral collaborations in terms of technology transfer and the exchange of scientists in vaccine development as Malaysia calls for an affordable, accessible and equitable vaccine and embarks on the roadmap of vaccine development and production.
- xii. Continuing to work hand in hand with the UN and the WHO in improving the lives of our people. The challenges brought about by COVID-19 compel every country, including Malaysia to focus on the rights to physical and mental health; the right to social security; the right to education; and the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing, and housing.

# Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations.

## **Article 2**

*Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedom set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any limitation of sovereignty.*

## **Article 7**

*All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.*

## **Article 18**

*Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.*

## **Article 22**

*Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.*

## **Article 26 (2)**

*Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.*

## **Article 27 (1)**

*Everyone has the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.*

# ASEAN Human Rights Declaration

Malaysia as a Member State of ASEAN had reaffirmed her adherence to the purposes and principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, in particular the respect for an promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance. In doing so, Malaysia has agreed to uphold the general principles which addresses the issues of racism and racial discrimination.

## **Provision 2**

*Every person is entitled to the rights and freedoms set forth herein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, gender, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic status, birth, disability or other status.*

## **Provision 3**

*Every person has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law. Every person is equal before the law. Every person is entitled without discrimination to equal protection of the law.*

## **Provision 9**

*In the realization of the human rights and freedoms contained in this Declaration, the principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, non-discrimination, non-confrontation and avoidance of double standards and politicization, should always be upheld. The process of such realization shall take into account peoples' participation, inclusivity and the need for accountability.*

## **Provision 22**

*Every person has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. All forms of intolerance, discrimination and incitement of hatred based on religion and beliefs shall be eliminated.*

## **Provision 31 (3)**

*Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of his or her dignity. Education shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN Member States. Furthermore, education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in their respective societies, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial and religious groups, and enhance the activities of ASEAN for the maintenance of peace.*

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Malaysia together with other 192 world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 25 September 2015. This is a **global commitment towards a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive development**, with 17 SDGs and 169 targets. Malaysia has put in place an enabling environment to embrace and implement the 17 SDGs in a systematic and measurable manner. The following outlines the Goals that aim to promote inclusivity and equal opportunity.

## **Goal 10 - Reduced Inequality Within and Among Countries**

### **SDG Target 10.2**

*By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status*

### **SDG Target 10.3**

*Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard*

# Recommendations from Malaysia's 3rd Universal Periodic Review (2018)

The UPR is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to **improve the human rights situations** in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. Under this mechanism, the human rights situation is reviewed every 5 years. The result of each review is reflected in the Final Report of the Working Group, which lists the **recommendations** the State under review will have to implement before the next review.

Malaysia's participation in its Third UPR reflects the Government's commitment to engage with the international community and have continued discourses on human rights. This also demonstrates that Malaysia is open to engage with other UN Member States in a frank, meaningful and robust exchange of views in the field of promotion and protection of human rights such as the accession to international human rights instruments.

Below outlines the recommendations obtained from Malaysia's Third UPR cycle<sup>178</sup>.

## **Recommendation 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 39**

Ratify the remaining core international human rights treaties and ensure their proper implementation, including:

- the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
- the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

## **Recommendation 57**

Continue efforts aimed at nation-building strategies and the development of a solid legislative, administrative and policy framework, notably to cater for the needs of the vulnerable groups (South Africa)

## **Recommendation 67**

Continue efforts in maintaining social cohesion in the country (Viet Nam)

## **Recommendation 72**

Continue efforts towards strengthening community integration through protecting cultural diversity (Iraq)

## **Recommendation 76**

Continue and strengthen efforts in promoting the culture of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence among different religious communities (Cambodia)

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<sup>178</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Malaysia's Third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the UPR Working Group of the United Nations Human Rights Council" 8 November 2018. See: <https://www.kln.gov.my/web/guest/-/press-release-malaysia-s-third-universal-periodic-review-upr-by-the-upr-working-group-of-the-united-nations-human-rights-council-8-november-2018-genev>

**Recommendation 128**

Continue to implement policies on interreligious harmony, to further promote unity among religions and creeds (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

**Recommendation 130**

Continue the implementation of measures aimed at strengthening inter-ethnic and interreligious interaction in the country (Belarus)

**Recommendation 131**

Guarantee freedom of religion or belief to all, stemming racial and religious intolerance, including against the Christian community (Croatia)

**Recommendation 265**

Increase further efforts for social inclusion of migrant workers and integration with the local community, irrespective of their race and religion (Myanmar)

**Recommendation 266**

Take necessary measures to prevent and punish all forms of violence against migrant workers, including hate crimes and racism (Myanmar)

## Recommendation and Conclusion

It is an inevitable fact that fending off systemic racism is a goliath task especially when it has been propagated for decades long. In fact, any person in Malaysia would consider issues of racism to be of non-priority especially when compared to bread-and-butter issues such as the hike in prices of goods and low income. Many, however, fail to draw connections between the issues of racism and racial discrimination with everyday issues. In reality, racism and racial discrimination hinders the growth of the country and diffracts her society. Politics, business, employment, education, and community living are all marred by racism and racial discrimination. In return, Malaysia, known and acknowledged for its diversity, is subjugated to the palms of bigots and racists, while equal opportunities remain a distant aspiration.

From such grounds, racism, discrimination and xenophobia draw sustenance. It has grown and propagated to the extent that they become common. Oversensitivity about one's ethnic identity aggravates attitudes based on the notion of nation, community, group, race, religion, way of life and lifestyle. To overcome this, Malaysia needs to devise specific responses at both local and national level. Therefore, collective effort by multiple/various stakeholders is required to combat the rising frequency of incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

Immediate actions must be taken to overcome the increased presence of racial and religious politics that continue to erode the social fabric of the nation. **Politicians should stop trumpeting inclusivity and togetherness when they themselves revert to the use of racial rhetoric to seize and maintain power.** They should stop providing lip service but practise what they preach.

Additionally, it is important for the government to implement policies and programmes aimed to unite the nation, create an inclusive society, and maintain the harmony of our multi-racial and multi-religious country. We call upon the creation of an avenue of conflict resolution through the **enactment of the National Reconciliation Commission Bill**. The importance of this recommendation is to provide a form of redress to victims of racism and/or racial discrimination. This Bill will also facilitate the introduction of a commission to mediate disgruntled members of the public. This is vital because based on our compilation from the yesteryears, we have found that most victims resort to posting incidents on social media because they are unaware of any remedial platforms.

Preventive measures should also be deployed instead of firefighting against false narratives and misinformation. The **government should strengthen its legal mechanism** to nip the bud of racism. We propose for the **Penal Code to be amended** to refine the definitions of hate speech. The amendment should also ensure that the Penal Code **adheres to the Rabat Plan of Action and other international standards**. Presently, the provisions related to this matter are outdated and the Sedition Act is oftentimes referred to as a preceding legislation. Whilst Pusat KOMAS echoes the call to repeal the Sedition Act, we believe that the empowerment of the Penal Code to be a more holistic piece of legislation.

Programs aimed to foster unity should also be introduced. **Large-scale awareness campaigns directed at the general public and potential victims**, as well as **training for the appropriate officials** need to be conducted. **Constant dialogue about issues of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia** should also be held to allow people to understand and respect one another.

Malaysia also needs to uphold their commitments and pledges at the international level. While Malaysia has demonstrated her commitment to promote equality and non-discrimination internationally, the situation on the ground does not reflect that. Therefore, the government of Malaysia should **demonstrate its unequivocal commitment to make significant improvements and advancements to its human rights track record** especially in the area of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

Serious attention needs to be given to address the issue of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in Malaysia. It is timely for our country to treat every Malaysian equally. We are hopeful that the MADANI government would respect and engage diversity from the lens of human rights, in congruence with international standards and norms which does not take away any legal provisions instituted as affirmative action.

# Glossary

<b>AICHR</b>	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women
<b>Ching Ming</b>	Cultural Observance to commemorate the deceased
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease 2019
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DAP</b>	Democratic Action Party
<b>EPF</b>	Employees Provident Fund
<b>GE15</b>	The 15th General Election in Malaysia
<b>GERAKAN</b>	Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia (People's Movement Party of Malaysia)
<b>GPS</b>	Gabungan Parti Sarawak
<b>GRS</b>	Gabungan Rakyat Sabah
<b>GTA</b>	Gerakan Tanah Air
<b>HRC</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>ICERD</b>	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
<b>IPT</b>	Higher Education Institution
<b>ISMA</b>	Ikatan Muslimin Malaysia (Malaysian Muslim Solidarity)
<b>MCA</b>	Malaysian Chinese Association
<b>MIC</b>	Malaysian Indian Congress
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MOF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>NEP</b>	New Economic Policy
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NHRI</b>	National Human Rights Institution
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>PAS</b>	Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party)
<b>PBM</b>	Malaysian Race Party
<b>PDRM</b>	Royal Malaysia Police
<b>PEJUANG</b>	Parti Pejuang Tanah Air

<b>Perkasa</b>	Pertubuhan Pribumi Perkasa (Mighty Native Organisation)
<b>PH</b>	Pakatan Harapan (Hope Alliance)
<b>PKR</b>	Parti Keadilan Rakyat (People's Justice Party)
<b>PM</b>	Prime Minister
<b>PN</b>	Perikatan Nasional (National Alliance)
<b>Ponggal</b>	Tamil Harvest Festival
<b>PTMI</b>	Indian Community Action Plan
<b>PUTRA</b>	Parti Bumiputera Perkasa Malaysia (Mighty Malaysian Bumiputera Party)
<b>Ramadan/ Ramadhan</b>	Muslim fasting month
<b>RTM</b>	Radio Television Malaysia
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SUHAKAM</b>	Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia Malaysia (Human Rights Commission of Malaysia)
<b>Taliban</b>	Islamic fundamentalist group
<b>TERAJU</b>	Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit
<b>Thaipusam</b>	Hindu festival celebrated on the full moon of the Tamil month
<b>UDHR</b>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<b>UMNO</b>	United Malays National Organisation
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review



