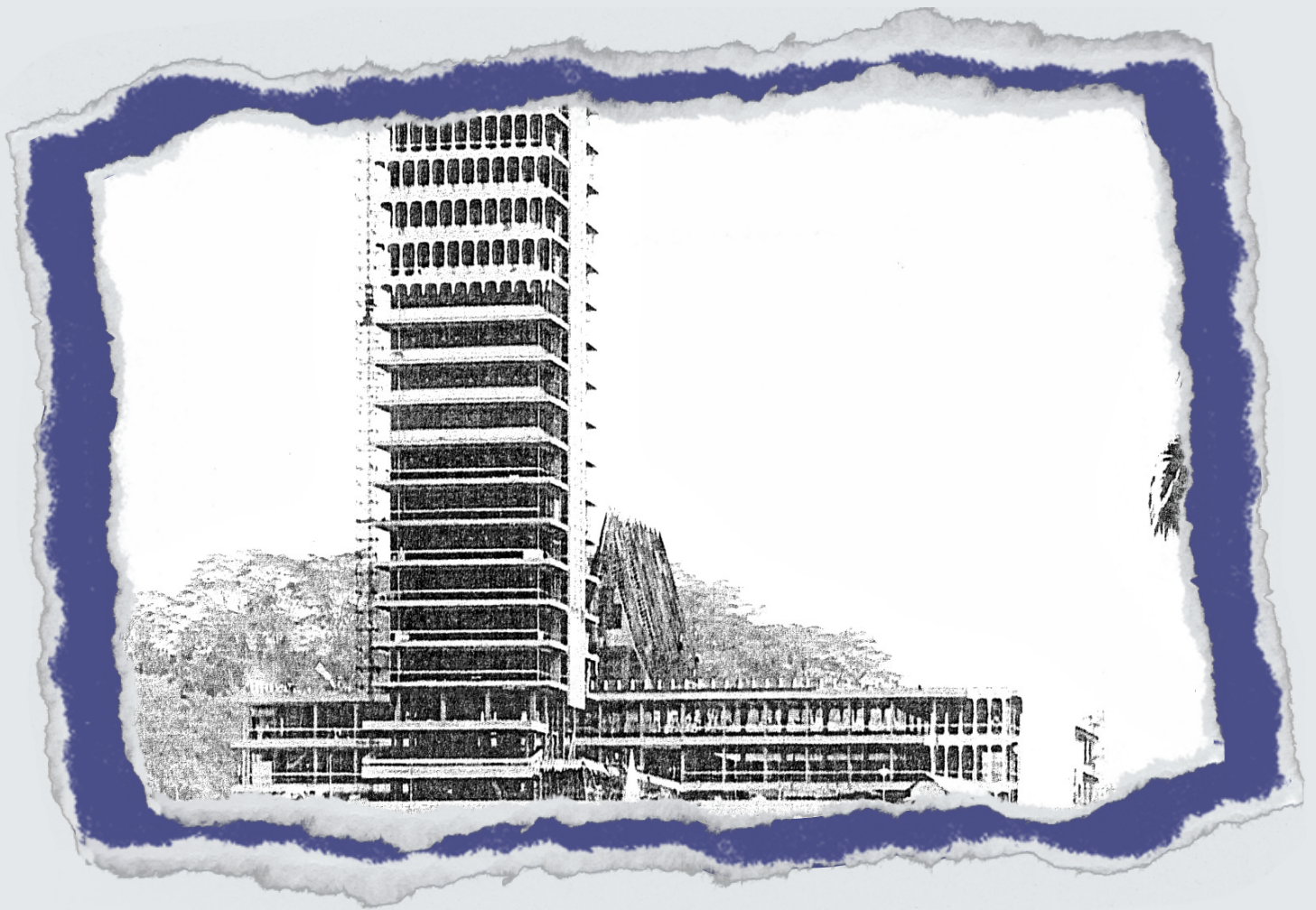


# RESEARCH REPORT



## HISTORICAL DEWAN RAKYAT (H-DR)

Organized by:



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## **Meet your Tuan Speaker!**

Hello there! I'm Ke Wen, the Tuan Yang Dipertua for the Dewan Rakyat of Malaya for MyMerdekaMUN. I have been actively involved in MUN since late 2016. Other than numerous experiences as a delegate and chairperson, I had notable experiences as a four-time Secretariat member in Taylor's Lakeside Model United Nations (TLMUN) Conference between 2018 and 2021, more notably as the Deputy Secretary-General and Secretary-General in 2019 and 2021, respectively.

I believe that MUN is not just mere co-curricular activity, but rather a platform for youths to learn to speak up on current issues, whether it is international or national issues, to create a society that is politically and socially aware in the future. If you want to strike up any discussions with me on anything, whether it's on science, national, international issues or just MUN in general, I am more than happy to entertain it.

I hope that the Dewan Rakyat 1961 council will allow prospective youths like you, to take up historical figures who have to face the challenges and form strategies that are required to be taken in order to form the Federation of Malaysia.

## **Meet your Deputy Tuan Speaker!**

Hey there! I'm Danny and I'll be your Deputy Tuan Speaker for MyMerdekaMUN. This conference will be my first time chairing. I have been MUN'ing since I was in Form 4 back in 2019, when I was a solo MUN'er from SMK Aminuddin Baki, now I'm a Sunway College student under the CIMP program, with 10 conferences under my belt so far. I'm also the Under Secretary General for Delegation Affairs at the UNOG Group.

MUN is a place where you are able to speak up about what you believe in, but it is also a place where sometimes you are forced to view things from different perspectives and angles. MUN enables one to think critically and more in depth regarding the issues we face today, whether local or global. I also have a huge passion for politics, so feel free to talk to me about political issues and politics in general although you might be surprised to find out what my views are regarding contemporary issues

I hope this council will be a great experience for you, hopefully y'all don't become like me when I first started MUN'ing and take things too personally. Remember that this is just a MUN council, everything is just political, nothing is personal. I also hope that this council will encourage you to get actively involved in the political system, as today, we desperately need more young people active in the political scene

# **Meet your Crisis Director!**

**Hi! I'm Lexi, and I'll be your crisis director for the Historical Dewan Rakyat Council of '61! As background, I have been active in the MUN community since 2019, delegated in 12 conferences, and directed in MalayaMUN'20's International Press Agency directorial system. My primary passion in MUNs are specialised Dewan Rakyat councils, which I feel are enjoyable and entertaining mediums for one to familiarise themselves with Malaysian politics and history.**

**I created this council as a conceptual idea back in May, visualising DR '61 as an entertaining medium for delegates to learn in depth about one of the most significant periods in Malayan - and now Malaysian - history. From the tensions brewing silently within the ruling UMNO to the struggles faced by the opposition Socialist Front, many of the issues faced by the First Dewan Rakyat of Malaya have shaped Malaysian politics today.**

**I sincerely hope that everyone has a great time in this council, and most importantly have fun! Unfortunately in many of my past Dewan Rakyat council experiences people tend to take things kinda personally, so let's remember that every exchange in council is in character, and not a personal attack on one another. >\_>**

## **Introduction to the Council**

**The Dewan Rakyat of the Federation of Malaya is the lower chamber of the Malayan Parliament. Consisting of 104 democratically elected members from federal constituencies across the Federation of Malaya, with the power and potential to shape the country's future is vested in them. They exercise their authority through legislation or constitutional amendments, by the means of passing bills in its chamber.**

**The Dewan Rakyat will be conducted with the MUN version of the Standing Orders of the Dewan Rakyat, which has been adapted to suit 1961 Malayan Parliament ([Link](#)). It is highly recommended for both beginner and experienced Dewan Rakyat members to read as it has minor amendments from the usual ROP.**

**As this Dewan Rakyat is set in 1961 and not 2021, the behaviours of your character does not equate to the behaviours of typical politicians in 2021. Hence for realism's sake, proper courtesy and manners expected from a 1961 Malayan MP are encouraged to be used when referring to other MPs as well as in speeches.**

## **Background**

As you may already know, this council will be started from 29 May 1961, in which is after Tunku Abdul Rahman, the Prime Minister of the Federation of Malaya, publicly announced his plans in forming a new federation called Malaysia. The plan will involve the merger of the Federation of Malaya, with British protectorates and colonial possessions in Southeast Asia, namely Singapore, Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei.

Keep in mind that any information or events that happened after the starting date of the council shall not be applicable and any attempts to use such information to be used shall not be tolerated, for the sake of council realism.

## **Origins of the Proposal**

Despite Tunku's announcement on 27 May 1961 on the Malaysian Federation proposal, the origin of the idea of a wider federation has much deeper roots and Tunku's statement coincided with substantive high level discussions that were taking place in the Colonial Office and in Southeast Asia on the future of the British-controlled territories in the region at that time. In fact, British Commissioner-General for Southeast Asia, Malcolm MacDonald, had conducted serious discussions on the subject of closer relations among the British-controlled territories in Borneo and Malaya as early as 1951.

MacDonald was attracted to the idea of a wider entity encompassing all the British controlled territories in Southeast Asia to create a larger economic and political entity that could compete with its neighbours and facilitate eventual decolonisation and he therefore initiated several high-level discussions in the early 1950s. MacDonald's particular interest in the broader federation can in part be credited to the general British post-war decolonisation policy of "unite and quit" which intended to create viable broader territorial units and nation states.

Despite the lack of progress in the 1950s in terms of discussion between British officials and local leaders in the region, the British government was nevertheless committed to the idea over the longer term because of the perceived lack of economic viability of the smaller territories as independent entities and the potential for these territories to fall to communist influence in the context of the on-going Cold War in Southeast Asia. The idea of the merger quickly took on a greater degree of importance and urgency in 1960, among British officials and Singaporean leaders, as well as Malaya after it achieved independence in 1957. The British government began to give more thought to the future of the smaller British-controlled territories in Southeast Asia –Singapore, Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei– and there was renewed interest in the idea of a wider federation which again became the focus of intense discussions.



## Current State of Affairs

The change in the British “East of Suez” policy which marked the eventual withdrawal of British forces from many British colonial possessions and protectorates east of the Suez, such as Sarawak, Sabah and Singapore, as well as the spread of Communism through armed insurgency in the region, had caused British colonial possessions in the Southeast Asia region need to be prepared for an accelerated process of self-government and to deal with the threat to her own security and economic interests.

## Possible Challenges

### Internal concerns

- The inclusion of predominantly Chinese Singapore into the Malaysian Federation has caused concerns of imbalanced racial composition, which was the reason it was excluded from the Federation of Malaya in the first place. The eventual inclusion of Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei into the merger plan eventually ease these concerns.
- The perceived threat of communism emanated from Singapore, with the ruling People’s Action Party (PAP) that, after the split in the party in 1961 and the formation of the Barisan Sosialis (which opposed the merger) communists could come to power in Singapore. Parties in Malaya such as the ruling Alliance Party and the Pan-Malayan Islamic Party (PMIP) were also concerned about the communist influence from Singapore.

### Possible objections from neighbouring nations

- Indonesian President Sukarno could probably express his objections to the proposed formation of the Malaysian Federation due to possible claims that the Malaysian Federation as having a British neo-colonial status contrary to that of revolutionary Indonesia, especially in light of the fact that Britain would continue to have military bases in Malaya and Singapore. It was known that Indonesia would push for independence and self-determination of the individual British Borneo colonies, in hope that it would eventually join Indonesia.
- The Philippines has also objected to the Malaysia proposal as it raised historical claims of sovereignty over the territories of Sabah due to the complicated inheritance from the last Sultan of Sulu.

### Status of autonomy to partners within the Federation of Malaysia.

- The inclusion of the Sabah and Sarawak territories raised their own peculiar issues of integration such as questions of political and economic autonomy in these territories. These states were politically backward and there was some concern regarding the potential dominance of the Malayan state in the proposed wider federation.
- There are also concerns about whether the peoples (as well as the leaders) of Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei and Singapore are willing to join Malaya in forming the Federation of Malaysia.

## **Matrix (VERY IMPORTANT)**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1E6LPz-flkZbWDwQLsawJXP7HEhi6SJdlkPnt3fn3XNbY/edit?usp=sharing>

## **Additional Reading**

[https://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP\\_2019-07-15\\_170844.html](https://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_2019-07-15_170844.html)

<https://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/Digitised/Article/straitstimes19610528-1.2.10>

<https://www.theborneopost.com/2011/09/16/formation-of-malaysia/>

<https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/article/news/legal-and-general-news/general-news/the-reasons-for-malaysia-s-formation>

<https://journals.openedition.org/archipel/445>

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/20029652>

[https://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP\\_1072\\_2010-03-25.html](https://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_1072_2010-03-25.html)