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State of a Nation:

The Troubles in Kuala Lumpur

Dewan Rakyat (DR)



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Research Report of the
**MODEL UNITED NATIONS AHISTORICAL DEWAN RAKYAT
CRISIS**



For Monash Model United Nations Conference (MONMUNC) 2022

Dais Introductions

Yang di-Pertua Dewan Rakyat: Lim Ke Wen

Hello there! I'm Ke Wen, the Tuan Yang Dipertua for the Dewan Rakyat for MONMUNC'22. 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.

Just a note to everyone who is reading this research report, this document is aimed only at direct readers who wish to know about the historical context of the crisis which will be important for those participating in this council

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Timbalan Yang di-Pertua Dewan Rakyat: Ackash Kumar

I would like to start off my introduction by thanking the Board of Dias of MONMUNC 2022 and Miss Tracy Leong for recommending me as the Timbalan Yang di-Pertua Dewan Rakyat! I am forever grateful.

To those who are not familiar with me, my name is Ackash and I will be turning 20 in June. It is such an honour that this will be my first ever time co-chairing a council! I have always believed in the power of communication. I think that, if you can even talk to a person about a subject they normally wouldn't talk about, it will help plant the seed of curiosity within them. That is exactly why I think MUN is such a powerful tool. You learn how to better your own communication skills while also opening your mind to other people's thoughts. And you also gain the confidence to convince.

But why I mostly join Dewan Rakyat councils is simple: my desire for change. I grew an increasing hunger for a better life for all in Malaysia over the course of the last few years. It was like an awakening of some kind. I think one lesson from what I have learnt that I hope to impart on all of you is this. No matter how insignificant you feel, one person can make more difference than you think. All you need to do is raise your voice and make your opinions heard.

However chaotic as councils are, they will never match the sheer chaos of my very being. My interests span across a variety of topics from music to nature to the occult to politics. I have collected these habits over the course of meeting people and learning more about myself. Hence, if you want to talk about anything, well, you know where to find me. I go where the wild things are (basically, come to INTI Subang haha).

"I was born to run; I don't belong to anyone."

- Miley Cyrus, Midnight Sky

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Pengarah Krisis: Tham Jim Ren (Daniel)

A good day to you, delegate. I hope that your day has been well and may it be well for the days to come. My name is Tham Jim Ren, though more recognized as Daniel, and I am **one of the Crisis Directors for the Alternate Dewan Rakyat (ADR) of 2009!**

I am currently studying a degree in finance and economics in Taylor's University, Malaysia, being in the fourth semester of my second year. I have significant interests in the fields of economics, international affairs and modern history, particularly the 20th century as the era of

the Cold War. Occasionally, when time allows it, I would play a game of chess. Simulations of the United Nations have ensnared my time for extracurricular activities for some time now. As a result, it had effectively formed an integral part of my interests, ranging from the great game of geopolitics to the resolution of world problems. Presently, I am a fervent participant in crisis councils and councils that are engrained with grand geopolitical natures and one ought to imagine that no deviation would reorientate this path for the immediate future. In the end, I remain thankful for all of my experiences that have preceded what is to come here in **Monash University Model United Nations 2022**.

I highly look forward to this particular council, given its potential to change the course of history for the Federation! Prepare your research, prepare your plans and prepare your speeches. Solidify your abilities, for it is here where you shall be given an opportunity! I wish you all the best, Members of Parliament!

“Ability without opportunity is nothing.”

- Napoleon Bonaparte, First French Emperor

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Pengarah Krisis: Alexis Micah Voon

Hi! I'm Lexi, and I am one of the mental patien- I mean Crisis Directors for MONMUNC 2022! This is the second Dewan Rakyat crisis I have orchestrated, and my sixth time on the Dais of a Dewan Rakyat council.

Starting MUN in mid-2019, I quickly became enamoured with the DR. I see DR councils as an educational satire of the real-life Dewan Rakyat, which aims to both improve upon the existing system as well as satirise the absurdity of Malaysian politics. In my opinion, the DR is an optimal method for youths to learn about the Malaysian political scene in an educational and entertaining way. After all, what better way to feel comfortable with may be seen as a daunting and intimidating subject than to find the humour and irony with it all?

I sincerely hope that you will find your experience in this council positively impactful, and myself, together with the Dais of ADRC, will do everything in our power to make you feel at home. Our goal is to help our delegates rise above and beyond to their greatest heights, and perhaps someday, you may serve as leaders of government. I shall leave with a quote from Malaysia's longest-serving non-Malay minister, who despite great hardship managed to serve our great nation as a minister for 29 years.

"Kita sepatutlah tidak hantar mereka ke bulan, tapi hantar mereka pergi ke matahari."

~ Tun S. Samy Vellu

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Introduction to Council

The Dewan Rakyat, or House of Representatives, is the lower house of the bicameral Malaysian Parliament. The House comprises 222 elected representatives across 13 States and 3 Federal Territories.

The House is led by the Yang di-Pertua Dewan Rakyat, or Speaker of the House, who serves as the Presiding Officer of the House. The Government is led by the Yang Amat Berhormat (The Most Honourable) Prime Minister, who serves as the leader of the Executive Branch as well as the Federal Government. The Leader of the Opposition, who is elected by members of the Opposition bench, serves as the primary scrutinising voice against the Government.

The House is governed by the Standing Orders of the Dewan Rakyat, which is enforced by the Presiding Officer. The Model United Nations Dewan Rakyat Rules of Procedure (MUN DR ROP), which is the specialised interpretation of the Standing Orders tailored for Model United Nations councils, can be found [here](#). For those wishing to refer to the real-world Standing Orders of the Dewan Rakyat, you may find it [here](#).

The MUN DR ROP utilises the base of the Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN) ROP, with added and altered elements from the Standing Orders of the Dewan Rakyat. Delegates are advised to familiarise themselves with the ROP before the conference, as there will only be a short ROP briefing from the Dais at the start of the first session.

Resolutions in council come in the form of Bills. In Malaysia, Bills are sorted into three categories. Public Bills pertain to the general public, Private Bills pertain to an individual, group of individuals, or corporate entity, and Hybrid Bills pertain to both. A Bill proposed by a member of the Cabinet is known as a Government Bill, while a Bill proposed by a Government backbencher or the Opposition is known as a Private Member Bill.

Bills typically require a simple majority of votes, or 51 percent of the House, to pass. In the case of a tie, the Timbalan Yang di-Pertua casts a tie-breaking vote. In the case of an amendment to the Federal Constitution, a two-thirds majority of votes, or 66.7 percent of the House, to pass.

Position Papers are not required for this council. You are welcome to submit one but no additional points will be given in your evaluation.

Introduction to Crisis Mechanics

In this crisis council, delegates have the ability to perform actions in the crisis world which are conveyed through directives. The outcomes of a directive are reflected in something called crisis updates, which are present in the form of news articles to inform council changes to the crisis world. Delegates are then able to respond to the crisis updates through more directives to move things to their own advantage in subsequent crisis updates.

Directives may consist of short, operative-phrase-like clauses. Directives can take the form of a simple directive, a press release or a request for information. Delegates are to consider the economic, military and political impacts and feasibility of their proposed actions. There are several types of directives that are used for any crisis councils, which are:

Individual Directives

Individual Directives, otherwise known as personal directives, are directives that state a specific action or request that an individual wishes to perform. These directives should be specific, brief, and composed typically of instructions or orders. These directives should be feasible, comprehensible and fit the modus operandi of the portfolio that you are representing. These directives should also be well within the individual's abilities and political powers (if holds a political office such as a ministry). These will be submitted to the Dais privately through a Google Form which will be provided. Private Directives pertain to private actions, Public Directives involve actions that will be made public, and Hybrid Directives pertain to both. Long directives are allowed if you have many actions to undertake at the same time as well as have very specific directives.

Joint Directives

Joint Directives are directives that were submitted by more than one delegate which seek to use the portfolio powers of two or more delegates. The mechanisms of a Joint Directive are identical to Individual Directives. All submitters to a Joint Directive are treated equally. Additionally, all portfolio powers of the Submitters of the Joint Directive can be utilised to achieve an outcome.

There are no specific format for a directive, unless directly specified by the Crisis Director

The flow of the crisis is always determined by the Crisis Directors, hence it is always good to ask them questions to increase your chance of success in the council!

Key Terms

The following are the list of key terms used in this Research Report.

- UMNO: The United Malays National Organisation, the leading party in the ruling *Barisan Nasional* coalition.
- MACC: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, a government body which investigates cases of and prosecutes perpetrators of corruption in both the public and private sectors.
- IPCMC: The Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission, a proposed body which aims to increase police oversight and reduce cases of corruption and abuses of power within the police.
- JAC: The Judicial Appointments Committee (JAC), it is a proposed committee to make the process of appointments of judges more transparent and allow wider representation in the appointments of judges. It is currently known as the Judicial Appointments Commission.
- BN: The *Barisan Nasional*, or National Front coalition, the ruling coalition in Malaysia.
- PKR: *Parti Keadilan Rakyat*, or People's Justice Party, a reformist party created from a merger of Anwar Ibrahim's *Parti Keadilan Nasional* and Syed Husin Ali's *Parti Rakyat Malaysia*.
- DAP: The Democratic Action Party, social democratic party founded from the ashes of the Malaysian branch of the People's Action Party in 1966.
- PAS: *Parti Islam Se-Malaysia*, or the Malaysian Islamic Party, an Islamist party led by Abdul Hadi Awang.
- RoS: The Registrar of Societies, a Home Ministry-led agency which approves and enforces registered organisations.
- ABIM: *Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia*, an Islamic youth organization dedicated to the upholding of intellectualism within Islamic discourse.
- SAPP: The Sabah Progressive Party, a Sabah regionalist party and *Parti Bersatu Sabah* breakaway founded and led by Yong Teck Lee.
- KL Sentral: Kuala Lumpur Sentral station, the primary railway station of Kuala Lumpur and the city's primary intercity railway station.
- DBKL: *Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur*, or the Kuala Lumpur City Hall, the administrative body of the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur.
- GDP: Gross-Domestic Product, which commonly functions as a comprehensive scorecard of a given country's economic health, as it is a broad measure of overall domestic production.

Introduction to Agenda

This research report aims to inform the Members of Parliament of the situation of Malaysia by 23rd March 2009, which is the time period the council starts off. In real life, this date marks more than a week before Abdullah Badawi's resignation as UMNO President and Prime Minister of Malaysia, in favour of his successor, Najib Razak. However, there will be changes in the historical timeline, in which the alternate timeline will be revealed soon.

Abdullah Badawi's Administration

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi became Prime Minister of Malaysia after Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's resignation in 2003 as Prime Minister. His candidacy for the Prime Ministership started when he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia after Anwar Ibrahim's dismissal in 1998. He was then properly elected as Prime Minister in a landslide victory for BN in the 11th General Election in 2004, the largest BN win in its history.

Abdullah's administration also saw the end of the economic strategies and policies of his predecessor, Mahathir Mohamad, that involved the adoption of grandiose projects as well as the dependence on foreign investment, government projects and privatisation to generate wealth in the economy. The changes in economic strategy led by the Abdullah Administration have been reflected in the 9th Malaysia Plan announced in 2006, which saw increased investments in the biotechnology and agriculture sector, in order to move Malaysia to a value chain economy by developing its inherent strengths in agriculture without losing its existing manufacturing base.

Some reforms proposed by the Abdullah Badawi administration, however, came to fruition; one involved in the launching of the MACC in February 2009, in his efforts to empower anti-corruption agencies and provide more avenues for the public to expose corrupt practices. There are other reforms such as streamlining the civil service to allow more efficient government services to be provided to the people, as well as trying to push for the creation of the IPCMC and the JAC, which gets watered down in the form of the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission, in an attempt to allow accountability in the police force as well as the JAC watered down an advisory role to the Prime Minister on judicial appointments. In addition, he has attempted to promote Islam Hadhari, translated to mean "civilisational Islam", which is a progressive approach to Islam in order to push for a progressive, harmonious Malaysia, where it hopes to empower Muslims to face the challenges of globalisation while not cause anxiety among any ethnic or religious groups. He is also known to push for more press freedom as well as protecting the freedom of expression, putting an end to some oppressive practices in the Mahathir era to clamp down on criticism against the government.

However, these attempts at economic and political reform are not popular among his Umno party, the conservatives within the Malay society and the civil service. This is in addition to

political pressures from within his own cabinet that still holds on to interests and practices from the Mahathir administration, leading to these reforms either watered down or the idea of it didn't take hold in implementation, causing failed or half-past ten reform policies.

UMNO leadership crisis

The disappointing performance of BN in the 12th General Election in 2008, which saw Barisan Nasional gain a slim majority of seats and lost its two-thirds majority in the Dewan Rakyat and also lost 5 states to Opposition Pact, led to growing discontent among UMNO members that slowly brewed into open dissent on a grassroots level which leads to petitions and campaigns being launched to ask for his resignation.

He faced discontent from within his own ranks in the UMNO party with Mukhriz Mahathir, the son of the former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, openly calling for him to step down. The UMNO Youth chief, Hishammuddin Hussein, however did not take any action against Mukhriz and dismissed it as a personal opinion.

The leadership crisis culminated in Abdullah's announcement on 10 July 2008, that he would step down as UMNO President and Prime Minister in mid-2009. This as a result of Abdullah was under heavy pressure to step down after many within his UMNO party including former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad openly asked him to take full responsibility for the dismal performance during the 12th General Election in March 2008.

Formation of Pakatan Rakyat

The Pakatan Rakyat, or also known as People's Pact, is an informal political coalition consisting of PKR, DAP, and PAS which was formed after the 12th General Election on 1 April 2008. PR never registered with the RoS, due to claims that Malaysian law only allows the registration of a coalition comprising seven parties or more.

Despite being informal, PR was a sign that the opposition was beginning to strengthen as BN struggled to maintain its chokehold on power. PR's primary unifier was moderation. Despite comprising both the secular DAP and the Islamist PAS, the founder of the coalition, Anwar Ibrahim, managed to temper fires and maintain unity between the parties. Anwar, credited with Islamist roots from his history in ABIM as well progressive values, served as an ideal medium to quell infighting within PR. The *Reformasi* movement was also another platform which helped these three parties see eye to eye with one another. PAS and their stance on anti-corruption helped spur better relations with the DAP and PKR, who were both seen as vocal opponents to the alleged abuses of power within BN.

However, conflicts within the coalition soon became apparent. Challenges arose from PAS to make Hadi Awang the Prime Minister if PR won the next general election instead of Anwar

Ibrahim. Furthermore, DAP and PAS routinely found themselves at odds. PAS comprised two camps: the more religious, *ustaz* camp and the more liberal, forward-thinking camp. The former has gained a reputation after PAS Deputy President Nasharudin Isa suggesting a unity government with UMNO in order to achieve a united Malay Muslim *ummah*.

On 16 September 2008, then-opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim announced that he had gathered the support of more than 31 BN MPs for PR to become the government. He advised Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi to ensure that no drastic action be taken and that the transfer of power was smooth. Yet, only one, Senator Zaid Ibrahim, had joined PKR. SAPP had also left BN but decided to remain independent of both blocs until they decided to rejoin the government. No other MPs had decided to support the alliance. The resulting fiasco caused a major blow to the credibility of PR, leading DAP National Chairman Karpal Singh to call for Anwar's resignation as opposition leader in February 2009.

PR's future remains uncertain. The collective effort of PR's component parties secured them 82 seats within Parliament as well as the administration of five state governments. However, Anwar's position and authority in PKR is coming under threat, while PAS's rhetoric has compounded uneasiness within the informal coalition.

Klang Valley Integrated Transit System

The Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur has seen major advancements in its public transportation infrastructure since the 1990s. Land-based electrified commuter train services began operation in August 1995, built from the Selangor Government Railway which first opened in 1886. The medium capacity passenger railway Ampang and Sri Petaling Lines followed in December 1996, followed by the fully automated Kelana Jaya Line in September 1998, and the Express Rail Link, which began operation of its two lines in April 2002. And most recently, during the timeline of the council, was the Kuala Lumpur Monorail Line, which began operation in August 2003.

The KL Monorail, Line 8 in the Klang Valley Integrated Transit System, was first announced by the DBKL in January 1990, after the Mahathir Mohamad-led Federal Government approved of the scheme in a June 1989 cabinet meeting. The initial cost of the project was estimated to be RM143 million, or RM319 million adjusted for present-day inflation.

Initial drafts of the project consisted of two parallel lines from Titiwangsa station, one branching toward Maharajalela and the other going on through Mid Valley and Old Klang Road. The overall plan consisted of 14 kilometres of overhead track with 22 stations, with an estimated capacity of 34,000 passengers daily travelling through KL's commercial centre, and an ambitious first phase completion date in two years. This plan however was scrapped, after fallout from the

1997 Asian Financial Crisis left government and investor coffers depleted. As a compromise, only the downtown portion of the line was built, with an extension toward KL Sentral.

Construction was scheduled in June 1990, however a series of delays, cost overruns, financing issues, and the Asian Financial Crisis left construction in a constant state of flux until July 1998, when MTrans Holdings (now Scomi Rail) took over construction, employing cost-cutting measures and completing the project by 2003 at a cost of RM1.18 billion, or RM1.76 billion adjusted for present-day inflation. The line began operations in August 2003, with KL Infrastructure Group given a 40-year concession to operate the line. The company soon found itself in financial ruin, with a RM882 million loan forcing KL Infra to shutter in 2007, and leaving Prasarana Malaysia as the line's operator, and responsible for the repayment of the loan.

The Monorail has also seen several incidents, notably in August 2002 when a 13.4kg safety wheel fell from a train and hit the head of a pedestrian during a test run. In a resulting lawsuit filed by the victim, Bernama journalist David Cheliah, KL Infra alleged that tampering may have been to blame. The case remains ongoing during the timeline of the council. In January 2005, a pneumatic load tyre burst, causing a rubber sidewall panel to flip open and injuring two. Concerns arise over the Monorail's safety as it boasts the worst incident record for any system in Kuala Lumpur, despite being the newest in the Klang Valley Integrated Transit System.

The General State of Malaysia

The effects of the 2008 Global Financial Crisis is still wreaking havoc in the international markets, which has caused a decline in Malaysia's GDP growth and exports and pushed Malaysia into an economic recession. First-quarter of 2009 GDP growth reports a new low of -6.2%. The unemployment rate in Malaysia rose to 4% in the first quarter of 2009, up from 3.1% in the fourth quarter of 2008. This is the result of the palm oil, rubber, oil and natural gas sectors being hit by falling commodity prices, as well as the electronics industry and general exports being hit hard by declining global demand. The International Oil Price crisis as a result of the speculative activities by oil traders in the immediate aftermath of the 2008 Global Financial Crisis also caused a global spike in oil prices, causing the government to ease petrol subsidies. This causes sudden hikes in the price of petrol and electricity as well as increased food prices all over Malaysia, which was also partly responsible for Abdullah's policies in restructuring government subsidies. Petrol prices rose 40% in July 2008, as a result of scrapping billions of ringgit in fuel subsidies, which led to thousands protesting in the capital. Abdullah Badawi is then criticised for his inability to handle the sudden inflation of prices of daily goods.

As a response to the ongoing global financial crisis and to shield the Malaysian economy from the global downturn, a 60 billion ringgit (\$16.26 billion) economic-stimulus plan is unveiled by the Government, which amounts to 9% of GDP. It is criticised that it strained the government finances as it is expected to drive the fiscal deficit to 7.6% of GDP in 2008.

Alleged corruption and discrepancies in the election system that heavily favoured the Barisan Nasional ruling coalition precipitated into the 2007 Bersih Rally which was attended by 40,000 people, held in Kuala Lumpur to campaign for electoral reform. Malaysia's ranking in the Transparency International corruption index fell to 43rd from 37th, in 2008.

Extra Reading

1. Malaysia Under Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi 2003-2009
https://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Malaysia/sub5_4a/entry-3629.html
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4. Pakatan Rakyat
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343792018_Kelestarian_Pakatan_Rakyat_dalam_Politik_Malaysia_2008_-_2015