SI 507 Final Project

Background

The 2020–2022 Malaysian political crisis was triggered after several Members of Parliament (MPs) of the 14th Malaysian Parliament changed party support, leading to the loss of a parliamentary majority, the collapse of two successive coalition governments, and the resignation of two Prime Ministers. The political crisis culminated in a 2022 snap general election and the eventual formation of a coalition government.

In February 2020, a development commonly dubbed the Sheraton Move saw the fall of the ruling Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition government and the resignation of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad after 22 months in power. They were replaced by the Perikatan Nasional (PN) coalition government led by Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin. Political instability continued after these changes throughout 2020 and into 2021, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This culminated with the resignation of Muhyiddin and his cabinet in August 2021, after 17 months in power. A few days later, Ismail Sabri Yaakob was appointed the ninth Prime Minister to replace Muhyiddin. The crisis triggered several early state elections and a 2022 snap general election.

Data

Since the Malaysian government and the Election Commission of Malaysia do not publish election results online, I am unable to obtain the data from the official website. Nonetheless, Sinar Project, a Malaysian non-profit organization put together results of past Malaysia election results at: https://github.com/Thevesh/analysis-election-msia/tree/main/data. I will also use the entries from Wikipedia to map the Malaysian political parties and Malaysian politicians to their election results.

Goal

The goal of this project is to predict the likelihood of a politician switching political parties. I am also interested to see which politicians are the key players in influencing other politicians to party hop (for example, Azmin Ali led 10 other MPs to deflect from PKR into BERSATU). Lastly, I am also interested in understanding which political parties will form a coalition in the future (coalition BN and PH used to be rivals, but they both agreed to join forces and serve as the government following the 15th general election).