



Who Did Malaysians Vote For?

A Brief Summary on the 2022 Snap Election (15th GE)

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About

Malaysia is a country in Southeast Asia. The federal constitutional monarchy consists of 13 states and three federal territories, separated by the South China Sea into two regions: **Peninsular Malaysia** and **Borneo's East Malaysia**.

Kuala Lumpur is the national capital, the country's largest city, and the seat of the legislative branch of the federal government. **Putrajaya** is the administrative centre, which represents the seat of both the executive branch (the Cabinet, federal ministries, and federal agencies) and the judicial branch of the federal government.

Politics of Malaysia takes place in the framework of a federal representative democratic constitutional monarchy, in which the **Yang di-Pertuan Agong** is head of state and the **Prime Minister of Malaysia** is the head of government. Executive power is exercised by the **federal government** and the **13 state governments**. Legislative power is vested in the **federal parliament** and the **13 state assemblies**. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature, though the executive maintains a certain level of influence in the appointment of judges to the courts.

The Constitution of Malaysia is **codified** and the system of government is based on the **Westminster system**. The Parliament consists of the Dewan Negara (Upper House/Senate) and Dewan Rakyat (Lower House/House of Representatives). In general elections, registered voters **vote for the members of the House of Representatives**

The 15th General Election was held in Malaysia on **Saturday, 19 November 2022**. The prospect of snap elections had been considered high due to the **political crisis** that had been ongoing since 2020; political instability caused by **coalition** or **party switching** among members of Parliament, combined with the fallout of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, contributed to the **resignation of two prime ministers** and the **collapse of each of their respective coalition governments** since the 2018 general elections.

The term of the 14th Parliament was due to expire on 16 July 2023, five years after its first meeting on 16 July 2018. However, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (**King of Malaysia**), Abdullah of Pahang, **dissolved parliament** at the request of **Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob** on 10 October 2022. Constitutionally, the elections were required to be held within 60 days of the dissolution, making 9 December the last possible polling day.

King
Abdullah

Ismail
Sabri bin

of Pahang

Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah is the Sultan of Pahang since the abdication of his father in 2019. He was the sixteenth King of Malaysia, from 2019 to 2024, being sworn in just a few weeks after ascending to the throne as Sultan of Pahang.



Malaysian 15th General Election

Yaakob

Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob is a Malaysian lawyer and politician (member of the UMNO party, part of the BN alliance) who served as the ninth Prime Minister of Malaysia from 2021 to 2022. He is both the shortest-serving prime minister (served for 15 months), and shortest-serving deputy prime minister (served for 40 days).



Timeline

Malaysia has had a **multi-party system** since the first direct election of the Federal Legislative Council of Malaya in 1955 on a **first-past-the-post basis**. The ruling party was the Alliance Party (Malay: Parti Perikatan) coalition and from 1973 onwards, its successor, the Barisan Nasional (National Front) coalition. Together with its predecessor, the **Barisan Nasional (BN)** government served for 61 years and was **one of the world's longest serving governments** until it **lost power** to the **Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition** in the 14th general election that was held on 9 May 2018. Following the **2020–22 Malaysian political crisis**, the



Perikatan Nasional government served from 1 March 2020 to 17 August 2021 when Barisan Nasional withdrew support and left the coalition.

Summary

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT

Oct 10, 2022

Ismail Sabri announced that the 14th Parliament had been dissolved to pave way for the upcoming 15th general election, which would be held within 60 days. On October 20, the Election Commission revealed the polling date for the 15th general election set on 19 November.

ANTI-HOPPING LAW

Oct 3, 2022

In the House of Representatives, a constitutional amendment was passed. The King gave his consent to the Constitution (Amendment) Act (No. 3) 2022, which prohibits members of parliament from switching political parties.

BIPARTISAN COOPERATION

Sept 12, 2021

The government under **Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob** and the opposition led by **Anwar Ibrahim** reached an agreement to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bipartisan cooperation to ensure political cooperation and stability amid the COVID-19 pandemic and stated that no elections would be held before July 31, 2022. This event marked a historic moment in Malaysian politics, as it was the first time such bipartisan cooperation had been formally established.

RECONVENING OF PARLIAMENT

Sept 10, 2021

The Malaysian cabinet approved several key reforms, including an Anti-Party Hopping Bill, **equal membership in parliamentary committees**, consultations on all bills, providing the **Opposition Leader with the same amenities as a cabinet minister**, limiting a **prime minister's term to 10 years**, and accelerating an amendment to **allow 18-year-olds to vote** and stand in elections. The opposition expressed its support for these reforms the following day, recognizing their importance for the nation.

NEW PRIME MINISTER

Aug 21, 2021



Ismail Sabri Yaakob (UMNO) is sworn in as the Prime Minister. An online petition opposing Ismail Sabri's appointment gained over 200,000 signatures within the first 8 hours, and subsequently garnered more than 350,000 signatures

INTERVENTION BY THE PALACE

Aug 17-20, 2021

The King met with MPs, asking them to send him their choice for next Prime Minister by 4pm on 18 August. The National Palace received nominations for the future prime minister from 220 MPs, each through a statutory declaration on 18 August 2021. From the declaration letters, a total of 114 MPs nominated Ismail Sabri, a sufficient majority to form the government. Following that, the King agreed to grant an audience with the 114 MPs to confirm their trust in Ismail Sabri who was nominated to be appointed as the next prime minister.

RESIGNATION OF MUHYIDDIN YASSIN

Aug 16, 2021

Muhyiddin Yassin resigns as Prime Minister after failing to maintain a parliamentary majority. The Palace also announced that an election would not be held due to the ongoing pandemic, and that the Agong would once again appoint the next Prime Minister.

SECOND WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT BY UMNO

Aug 3, 2021

Ahmad Zahid Hamidi along with 10 other UMNO MPs held a press conference announcing the withdrawal of UMNO's support for Muhyiddin as prime minister. Other UMNO members in the Cabinet also resigned from their posts, citing loyalty to the party, except the Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

FIRST WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT BY UMNO

Jul 8, 2021

[Barisan Nasional \(BN\)](#) Chairman and [UMNO](#) President Ahmad Zahid addressed the media virtually and announced that UMNO would **officially withdraw support** for PM Muhyiddin with immediate effect. On July 10 and July 14, UMNO's vice-president and newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob and 9 Cabinet UMNO members agreed to support Muhyiddin as Prime Minister.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Jan 12, 2021

State of Emergency declared by the King on the advice of Prime Minister Muhyiddin, citing the COVID-19 pandemic and political instability as reasons. This **suspends**



Parliament and is met with criticism and claims of it being a move to maintain political power as no snap elections can occur during the State of Emergency.

NEW PRIME MINISTER

Mar 1, 2020

Muhyiddin Yassin (BERSATU) is sworn in as Prime Minister after being appointed by the King, asserting that he has the majority support in Parliament, forming a government under the newly formed [Perikatan Nasional \(PN\)](#) coalition.

BERSATU LEFT PH

Feb 24, 2020

BERSATU, which had 26 MPs, withdrew from the ruling PH coalition, causing PH to lose majority in the House of Representatives.

RESIGNATION OF MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

Feb 24, 2020

Mahathir Mohamad resigns as Prime Minister, creating a power vacuum and political uncertainty.

SHERATON MOVE

Feb 23, 2020

A significant political maneuver occurs when members of PH and the opposition meet at the Sheraton Hotel, leading to a realignment that undermines the PH government.

2018 GENERAL ELECTION

May 9, 2018

[Pakatan Harapan \(PH\)](#), led by the 4th Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad (BERSATU), wins the general election, ousting the long-ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition headed by Najib Razak (Malaysian 6th Prime Minister). This marks the **first change of government** since Malaysia's independence.

Political Parties & Coalition

Under the current Malaysian legislation, all political parties (termed "Political Associations") must be registered under the Societies Act.



Political Coalitions

There are multiple political coalitions in Malaysia and they change quite often especially after the [2018 General Election](#) and [2020 - 2022 Political Crisis](#).

General Election	Party	Coalition	Party	Coalition	Party	Coalition	Party	Coalition	Party	Coalition
2018	BN	Barisan Nasional	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis	PN	Parti Negara	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis
2020	PH	Pakatan Harapan	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis	PN	Parti Negara	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis
2022	PH	Pakatan Harapan	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis	PN	Parti Negara	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis
2023	PH	Pakatan Harapan	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis	PN	Parti Negara	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis
2024	PH	Pakatan Harapan	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis	PN	Parti Negara	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis	GPS	Gerakan Parti Sosialis

Political Parties

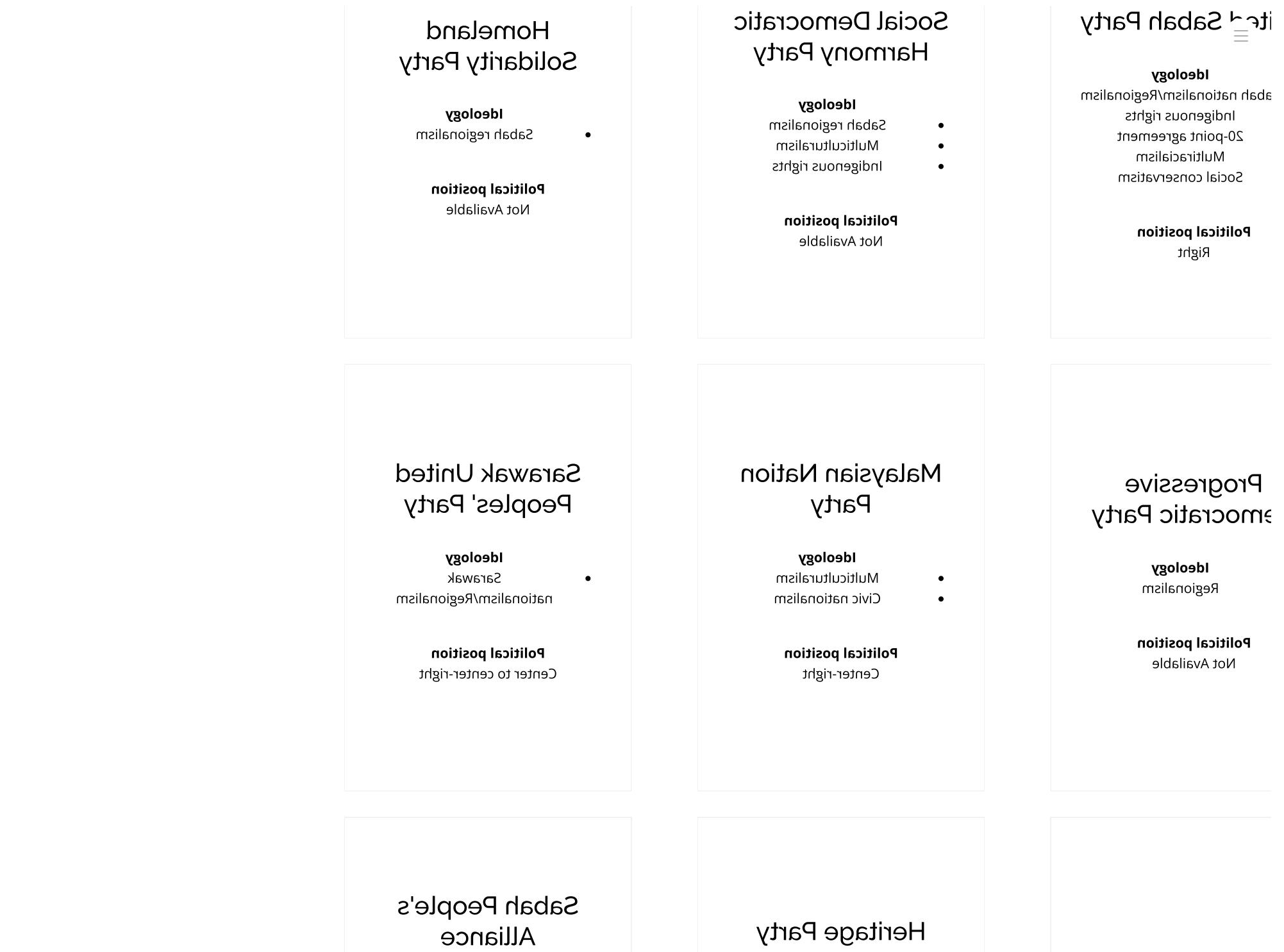
The following lists of political parties are non exhaustive. Only parties that won seats in the 15th General Election are included.

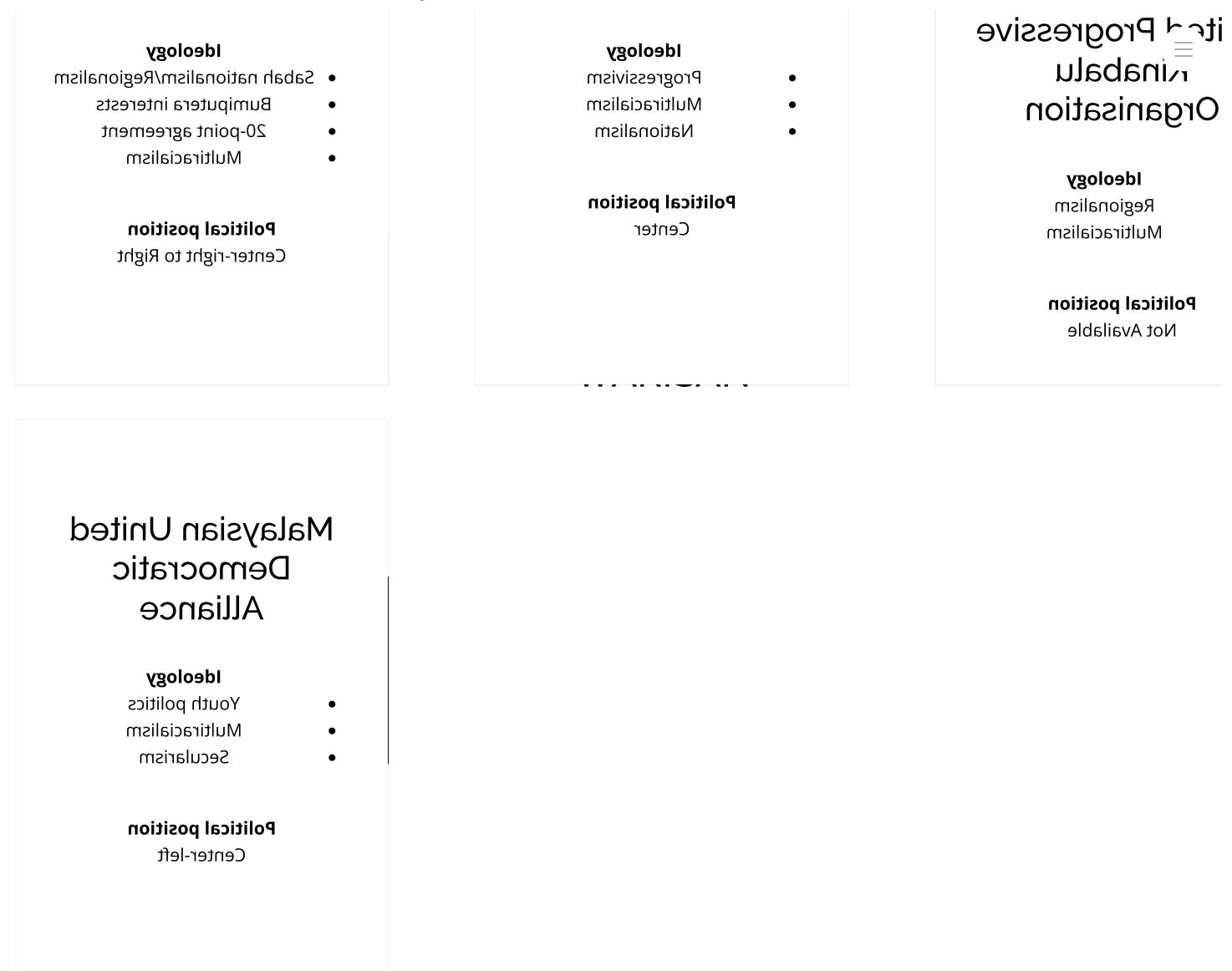
Note: MUDA had an electoral pact with PH during the election, but decided to join the Opposition after the election. Thus, it is categorized as Others

[SHOW ALL](#) [PH](#) [PN](#) [BN](#) [GPS](#) [OTHERS](#) [HIDE ALL](#)









Running Candidates



The 15th Malaysian General Election has the following:



Candidates



Constituency Seats



Major Political Alliances

The candidates for the 15th Malaysian General Election has the following demographic information:

♂ Gender

Male
86.6%

Female
13.4%

♀ Ethnicity

Malay (719 Candidates)
86.1%

Chinese (170 Candidates)
85.9%

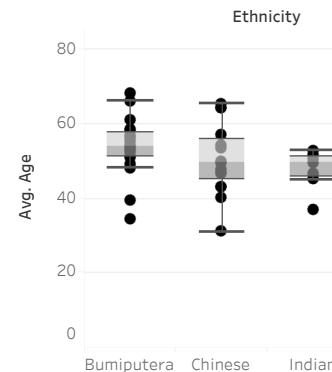
Indian (52 Candidates)
94.2%

Others (4 Candidates)
100%

📅 Age

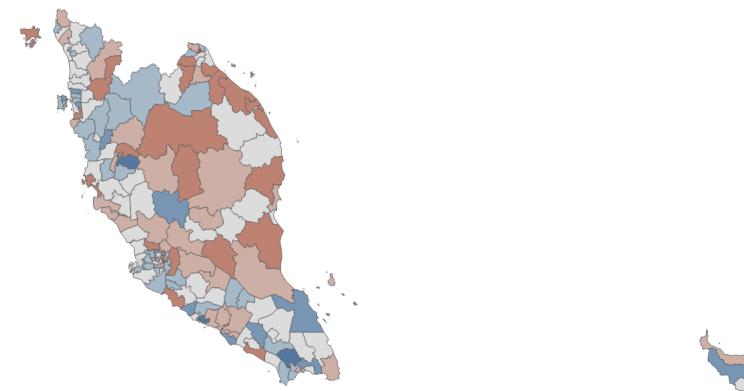
👤 Age by Political Party

Malaysian 15th General Election



PARTI BERSATU RAKYAT
 PARTI SEDAR RAKYAT S.
 PARTI SARAWA
 PARTI PERPADUAN RAKYAT
 PARTI BUMIPUTERA PERKASA M
 PARTI UTAI
 GABUNGAN PARTI
 PARTI KESEJAHTERAAN DEMOKRATIK MA
 PARTI ISLAM SE
 PARTI RAKYAT
 PARTI GABUNGAN RAK
 PARTI BANGSA
 PARTI WARISAN S
 BARISA
 PARTI PEJUANG TAN/ PAKATA
 PERIKATA
 PARTI BANSA DAYAK
 PARTI SOSIALIS
 PARTI BUMI K
 PARTI TINDAKAN DE
 IKATAN DEMOKRATIK N

🏛️ Age by Constituency Seats



All Candidates Info

Candidates Info

Name	Parliament	Party
Ko Chu Liang	P.001 Padang Be..	PARTI WARISAN SABAH (..)
Mohamad Bin Saad @..	P.001 Padang Be..	PAKATAN HARAPAN (PH)
Rushdan Bin Rusmi	P.001 Padang Be..	PERIKATAN NASIONAL (P..)
Zahida Binti Zarik Khan	P.001 Padang Be..	BARISAN NASIONAL (BN)
Zahidi Bin Zainul Abid..	P.001 Padang Be..	BEBAS (BEBAS)
Fathul Bari Bin Mat J..	P.002 Kangar	BARISAN NASIONAL (BN)
Noor Amin Bin Ahmad	P.002 Kangar	PAKATAN HARAPAN (PH)
Nur Sulaiman Bin Zol..	P.002 Kangar	PARTI PEJUANG TANAH...
Rohimi Bin Shapiee	P.002 Kangar	PARTI WARISAN SABAH (..)

Ethnicity

(All)

Party

(All)

Parliament

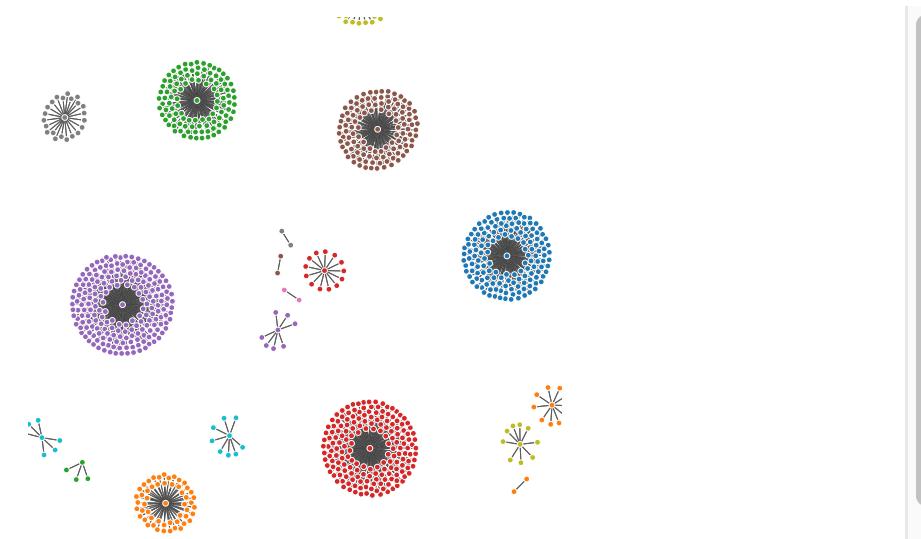
(All)

Age

23

Networks

The center is the name of the political party and the nodes are candidates' names. You can use your touchpad or scroll wheel to zoom in/out.





Census

As a politician, especially a candidate running for election, it is **important to know the area and the people one serves**. Even within the same state, different areas have different needs, income levels, and problems that must be addressed by elected representatives.

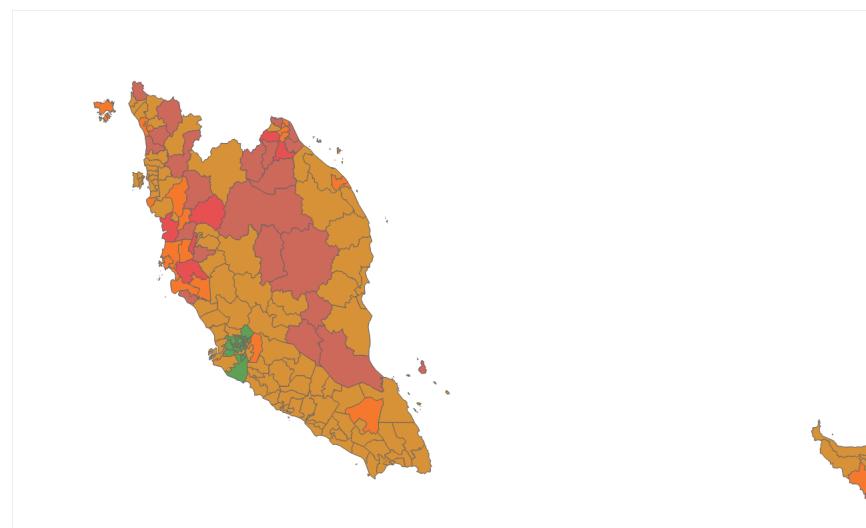
Therefore, the following census data is crucial for candidates running in the election, and for readers of this report to understand the rationale behind a party or coalition's decision to compete for a Constituency seat, or to nominate a specific candidate, especially when **Malaysian voters remain divided along ethnic lines**.

For example, if the majority of voters in Area A are of XYZ ethnicity, it would be beneficial for a party to nominate a local candidate who is also of XYZ ethnicity.

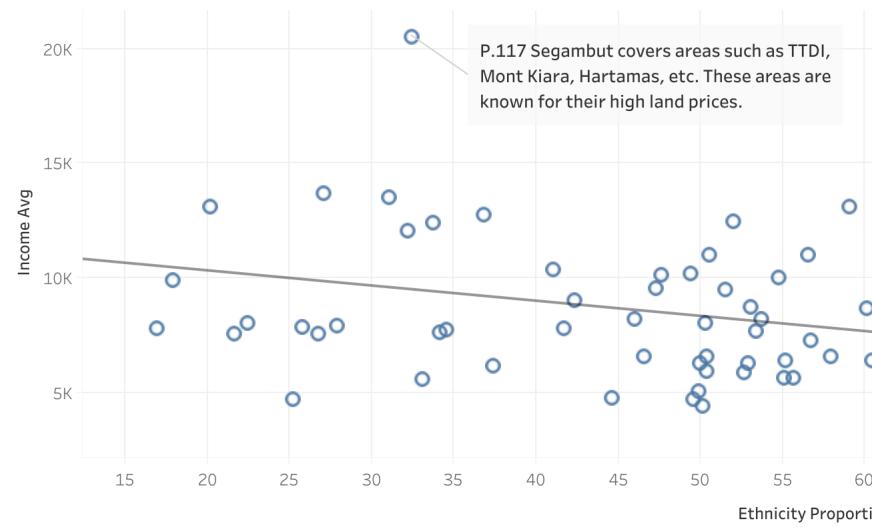
All Malaysians are categorized into three different income groups: the Top 20% (T20), Middle 40% (M40), and Bottom 40% (B40). The classification threshold is based on the Malaysian Department of Statistics' (DOSM) Household Income and Basic Amenities (HIS/BA) survey. Since the data used was the 2020 census data, I used DOSM's 2019 threshold to define the income groups, where **B40** is less than RM 4850, **M40** is RM 4850 - RM 10959, and **T20** is RM 10960 and more.

For the Bumiputera Population, I categorized this variable into 4 groups: Small, Medium, Large, and Extra-Large. In this dataset, **Bumiputera** includes the Malays, the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia, and various indigenous peoples of East Malaysia as **defined by the National Registration Department of Malaysia**. **Small** is proportion less than 50%; **Medium** is between 50% to 65% (inclusive); **Large** is between 65% to 90% (inclusive); and **Extra-Large** is greater than 90%.

Census Data for Each Constituency



Avg. Income v.s. Ethnicity Prop.





Manifestos

During the **campaign period**, political parties or coalitions will come up with **various manifestos and slogans** to gain support from the voters. The 15th General Election was the first in which 18–20-year-olds were eligible to vote, following a constitutional amendment reducing the voting age from 21 to 18. Additionally, all voters were automatically registered, so the **electorate expanded by around six million people** or 31%.

The following are the **manifesto themes** for the four political coalitions introduced in this report.

“ Kita Boleh!
(We Can!) ”



Pakatan Harapan (PH)

“ Prihatin, Bersih, Stabi
(Concern, Clean, Stable) ”



Perikatan Nasional (PN)



Results

In the general election, no individual alliance won the required 112 seats needed for a majority in the Dewan Rakyat to form the next government. On 22 November, days after the election, none of the coalition leaders were able to get a simple majority of 112 seats, so the King summoned Anwar Ibrahim (PH's leader) and Muhyiddin Yassin (PN's leader) to meet him. The King proposed a unity government, but PN rejected the idea of working with PH.

On 23 November, the King met with BN and GPS leaders in the royal palace. The next day,



UMNO's supreme council agreed to follow the wishes of the King for BN to join a unity government, but the condition is that the unity government must not be led by PN. DAP politicians of the PH coalition apologized publicly to the Sarawak government and Sarawak people over past misunderstandings and called for a fresh start to cooperate together. Later on 24 November, the Royal Palace announced that PH chairman Anwar Ibrahim was appointed as Prime Minister by the King as Anwar has received support from MPs from PH, BN, GPS, Warisan, MUDA and PBM, as well as independent MPs.

On 25 November, GRS had joined the unity government, supporting Anwar; this resulted in Anwar becoming the first prime minister since 2008 to have two-thirds majority support in Parliament. Muhyiddin congratulated and thanked Anwar for inviting PN to join the unity government, and declined Anwar's invitation, stating that PN would play the role of a "credible opposition" to ensure "corruption-free governance".

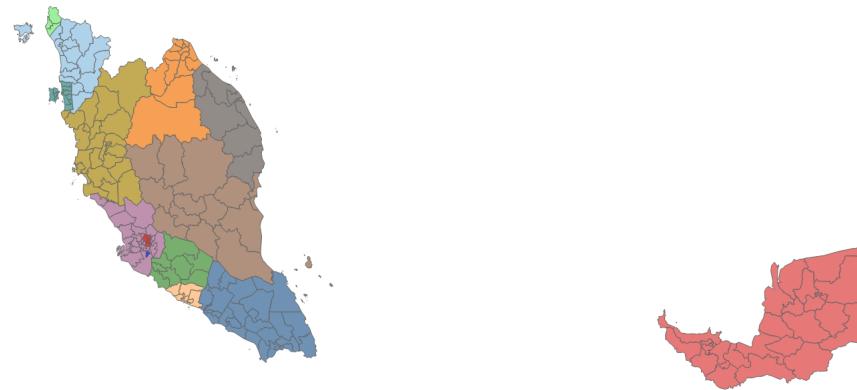
Move your mouse over the cards to flip them and see the statistics:



For detailed results, refer to the Tableau Dashboard:



Malaysian 15th General Election Result



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