



MIDAS CONFERENCE 2013 REPORT

28 November 2013, Kuala Lumpur

Strengthening National Resilience



MiDAS CONFERENCE 2013 REPORT

28 November 2013
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Theme:
STRENGTHENING NATIONAL RESILIENCE



Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security

MiDAS CONFERENCE 2013 REPORT

Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security

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The Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS) was established in April 2010 under the purview of the Ministry of Defence, Malaysia. It is poised to become a centre of excellence for the Ministry of Defence and Government of Malaysia in the defence and security field through comprehensive research and sharing of knowledge. In generating new ideas it shall include various activities such as forums, debates, seminars and publishing of journal on defence and security. MiDAS is premised at the Ministry of Defence in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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This report summarizes the proceeding of the conference as interpreted by the assigned rapporteurs and editor appointed by the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS). Participants neither reviewed nor approved this report.

This conference adheres to a variation of the Chatham House Rule. Accordingly, beyond the paper presenters cited, no other attributions have been included in this conference report.



MIDAS CONFERENCE

Strengthening Nation's Defence and Security

28 NOVEMBER 2013



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STRENGTHENING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

Foreword

The MiDAS Conference 2013 with the theme, 'Strengthening National Resilience' was successfully organised by MiDAS at the Istana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 28 November 2013. This conference is a national platform for policy makers, researchers, think tanks, as well as academicians to present their views and discuss issues relevant to national security. The MiDAS Conference 2013 has helped in providing an informal and unofficial channel for exchange of opinions, perspectives and to provide an environment to freely highlight and explore insights among agencies concerned with regards to national resilience which is related to achieving lasting peace, stability and sustainable national development.

The theme for this conference was formulated due to a realisation that the time had come for all Malaysians to rediscover and reactivate the meaning and condition of 'national resilience'. 'Resilience' is a condition when a nation is able to expound its strength and durability in facing adversity and threats that can be from both domestic and international uncertainty. These kinds of threats may be obvious however, today the threats have the ability to weaken national integrity and the continuance of the nation state. As such those threats must be taken seriously. Thus MiDAS Conference 2013 with its theme, 'Strengthening National Resilience' is a response to how Malaysia may reach its desired goals of peace, stability and prosperity by having the right means, response and consciousness that can strengthen 'national resilience'.

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin Yassin officiated the conference and delivered a Keynote Address entitled, 'National Resilience towards a Developed Nation'. He emphasised and reiterated the overarching role of the defence and security forces to be part of nation building and development. The nine distinguished speakers from various backgrounds of security, defence, economy and civil society that shared a 'no holds barred' sessions with participants, made the conference more meaningful and significant. While the first MiDAS Conference of 2011 acted as a platform in taking security cooperation among defence, security and enforcement agencies

to the next level, it could be said that this second conference of 2013 has added value by placing the 'Community' at its heart. Both the Malaysian community and the ASEAN community is relevant to the peaceful and steady development of our nation and region. That said it must be balanced by pragmatic diplomacy and engagement with major powers and nations in the region. ■

Dato' Seri Hishamuddin Tun Hussien,
Chairman of MiDAS

*Deputy Prime
Minister, the
Honourable
Tan Sri Dato' Hj.
Muhyiddin Yassin
with honourable
invitees of MiDAS
Conference 2013*



Executive Summary



Group photograph with The Honourable, Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin bin Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

The Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS) is pleased to present the summary of proceedings for the second MiDAS Conference 2013. The conference held at the Istana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 28 November 2013 was a success. It was held as a national forum for policy makers, researchers, think tanks, as well as academicians to discuss issues related to the theme. This year the participation of Non Governmental Organisations (NGO's) was added to the list. The Conference discussed and shared views in connection with the topics for each session. The plenary sessions addressed current events and; expected challenges to national growth and security.

This second MiDAS Conference 2013 has also paved the way to enhance understanding and knowledge amongst participants particularly in dealing with security and development issues that impact survival of the nation. It also provided perspectives and invaluable input for different national agencies, policy makers, researchers and civil society groups that have to deal with these types of issues.

The Honourable Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin Yassin opened and delivered the Keynote Address for the second MiDAS Conference 2013. The title of his Keynote Address was 'National Resilience towards a Developed Nation'. In the delivery, he touched on the timeliness of the conference theme. He sighted that as the global challenges mount on Malaysia, a nation that is multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious, the perspectives of the past leaders and values must be understood in order to sustain the success that has been achieved. Malaysia's future challenges must be met by national unity and integration in order for it to survive adversity and continually prosper.

*The Honourable
Tan Sri Dato'
Hj. Muhyiddin
Yassin Deputy
Prime Minister,
accompanied
by Dato' Seri
Hishamuddin Tun
Hussien Honourable
Minister of Defence
and Chief of
Defence Force
Malaysia*



He added that 'resilience' is not mere a bounce back from disaster and misfortunes but also the ability to become stronger after any adversity. He elaborated that the 1 Malaysia vision is related to resilience and although misunderstandings are natural, it can be deterred by holistic values and mental resilience of every individual Malaysian. Apart from this, parents and educators are expected to bring about the value of acceptance and mental ability among the young as sighted in the Razak Report and the new National Educational Blueprint.

He added that, Malaysia already has a Total Defence policy also known as HANRUH and he stressed that in order for it to work better, this concept must promote security cooperation, coordination and responses from all security and defence agencies as was seen in the recent Lahad Datu incident in Feb 2013, where private sector and society came to support the measures taken by the government.

Although Malaysia prefers diplomacy over aggression, no one must doubt its resolve to defend its national territory and sovereignty. Thus, the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) and Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) especially, should be trained and skilled. He stressed that the military should also play a role in national development and with national economic resilience. He concluded by stressing that Malaysia has had a good 56 years of independence and is now heading towards a high income and developed nation; and must unite against all sources of challenges.

The conference had a Keynote Address and three Sessions. Session 1, focused on and discussed 'Strengthening National Resilience: The Malaysian Identity'. Session 2 on 'National Resilience: Responding to Crisis' and Session 3 on 'Enhancing Security through National Resilience'. A total of 350 participants attended the conference from defence, security, enforcement agencies, institutions and NGO nationwide.

Session 1 entitled 'Strengthening National Resilience: The Malaysian Identity' was presented by three speakers. YBhg. Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, Chairman of Air Asia X; YBhg. Tan Sri Dato' Ramon Navaratnam, Chairman of the Centre for Public Policy Studies - ASLI and YBhg. Tan Sri Prof Emeritus Dr. Khoo Kay Kim, a Professor from the Department of History University Malaya. Session 1 was moderated by YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Munir Majid, Chairman of Bank Muamalat and Distinguished Fellow of MiDAS. In Session 1, it was concluded that there were two main points that were apparent in the discussions and presentations. The first point was that despite all the problems in national unity and identity there was a common sentiment among the presenters and the participants that Malaysia must attain national unity and resilience and the process must start young and fortified in early education centres right through to university level by capable and nationalistic educators. It is also accepted



that vulnerability still exists in the attempt of strengthening national unity and identity as such there must be vigilance by the community. The second point highlighted is that Malaysia needs the sort of leadership that is committed to promote commonality as opposed to only concentration on diversity that does not necessarily come to common points.

Session 2 entitled 'National Resilience: Responding to Crisis' was also presented by three speakers. YBhg. Gen Tan Sri Dato Seri Dr. Zulkifeli bin Mohd Zin, Chief of Defence Forces; YBhg. Mr. Baharuddin Abdul Hamid, Undersecretary, National Security Council; and YBhg. Dato' Dr. Ahmad Faizal bin Mohd Perdaus, President MERCY Malaysia. Session 2 was moderated by YBhg. Prof Dato' Dr. Zakaria Hj. Ahmad, Senior Vice President HELP University and Distinguished Fellow of MiDAS. In Session 2, it was summarised that institutionally Malaysia is well established and has begun to build its institutional strength incrementally but to push it further and higher, political will and coordination is needed. It was also stressed that community participation and preparedness is paramount in time of crises.

Session 3 entitled 'Enhancing Security Through National Resilience' was presented by three speakers. YDH Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, Inspector General of Police Malaysia; YBhg. Prof Dr. Mansor Mohd Noor, Ethnic

Research Institute, UKM; and YBhg. Dato' Azman Amin Hassan, Director General, Department of National Unity and Integration, Prime Minister's Department. Session 3 was moderated by YBhg. Prof Dato' Sri Dr. Syed Arabi Syed Abdullah Idid, Professor at the International Islamic University and Distinguished Fellow of MiDAS. The Third session found that despite the challenges Malaysia has faced it has managed to progress. Malaysians look towards building national unity and integration and in getting to a developed nation by 2020. Malaysia must be a nation successful in converting its youth into a 'demographic dividend' that keeps paying off progressively in tandem with national development. With the police keeping law and order in check and studies on community integration being implemented, the government is pursuing efforts that are both continuous and sustainable while things are done in moderation and with an open mind.

The MiDAS Conference 2013 was officially closed by the Honourable Dato' Seri Hishamuddin Tun Hussien, Minister of Defence of Malaysia. In his closing address, he congratulated MiDAS and all those involved. The theme, 'Strengthening National Resilience' he added was timely at a juncture when the global situation is challenging for everyone. Throughout the three Sessions he saw that some direction and consensus were found to help navigate the current and future generation of Malaysians. He added Malaysia must be a nation that is an example of strength in diversity, non divisive, inclusive and developed. He reminded everyone that the issue of security and defence is as important. The collaboration between police and the military must continue and flourish to accommodate bigger challenges ahead. The existing cooperation through joint patrols has helped ease communications and relations for the police and military especially during the Feb 2013, Lahad Datu incident. Finally, he reminded the participants that by 2015, Malaysia will be the ASEAN Chair and also be a non-permanent member in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) where Malaysia is envisioned to go beyond national borders to regional and international leadership roles. ■

Lt Gen Dato' Pahlawan Dr William Stevenson
Chief Executive MiDAS



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Chapter 1

Opening and Keynote Address **National Resilience Towards a Developed Nation**

THE HONOURABLE
Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin Yassin
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

Keynote Address

‘National Resilience Towards A Developed Nation’

The Honourable, Tan Sri Dato’ Hj. Muhyiddin bin Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Keynote Address at the conference. Following is an extract of the speech



In his welcome address at the 2nd conference of the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS) the The Honourable, Tan Sri Dato’ Hj. Muhyiddin bin Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia was pleased to note that moving on from the previous theme of *“Reinforcing National Defence and Security: A Revisit”*, those gathered in this forum has come to explore and address a very important facet of Malaysia’s outlook. That is being a Developed Nation and having the National Resilience to support this very challenging goal. Hence the theme for this year’s forum which is *‘Strengthening National Resilience’* he had found as most appropriate, given the events which have taken place recently. He pointed that in recent

times the security uncertainties facing the nation need clever navigation towards the vulnerabilities facing Malaysia this century.

He stated that the nation has embarked on the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and New Economic Model (NEM) to propel Malaysia towards achieving the developed nation status by the year 2020 which is 7 years away. He emphasised that in order for Malaysia to realise this aspiration, it will need a concerted effort from all walks of our society. Now this is easier said than done, as despite all our initiatives to unite our multi-cultural society, there are always detractors who will challenge the legitimacy and sincerity of our efforts. But he believed that given time and understanding, Malaysians will be able to nurture and fortify the rich diversity, tolerance and trust amongst all of its citizens.

According to him, this will need a concerted effort from all Malaysians regardless of race, creed and culture. The harmony and friendship that were forged during the days of our forefathers and deeply entrenched in the fabric of our national society must be preserved at all costs. This he believed will be the first stepping stone in order to build national resilience which all Malaysians had displayed in the numerous security crisis that was faced in the formative years and challenges that had engulfed the nation before. Above all, Malaysians will have to come as one with the uncertainties and security challenges we are bound to face in future.

Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin bin Yassin stated that the concept of resilience is not new and one which is evident in the national fabric of most nations. He explained that over the past decades, the term resilience has evolved from the discipline of materials science, the ecology and environmental studies to become a concept used liberally and enthusiastically by policy makers, practitioners and academics worldwide. In countries, particularly those who had been colonised before and especially those who had to fight for their independence, resilience is a concept embedded in their society and political outlook.

He pointed that there are many literatures defining resilience. Two of the commonly used are *"the ability to bounce or spring back into shape or position after being pressed or stretched"* and *"the ability to survive and prosper in the face of adversity and change"*. As a concept, National Resilience also means *"to support own citizens and first responders to*

ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.” In short, resilience is not only the ability to recover from disasters and misfortunes but is also the ability to get stronger as a result of adversity.

He reminded everyone to return to the Concept of 1Malaysia which Malaysia had embraced since 2008 and suggested that 1Malaysia is not a new concept or formula but rather the ultimate goal of Malaysia’s national unity. It has been the main vision of our country’s leaders of the past in view of the Malaysian multi ethnic mix. He added that it is vital that Malaysia is able to create a harmonious and productive population that will come together in times of need and adversity without fear or favour. Above all, Malaysians must be able to put aside differences and misunderstandings which are bound to occur in our plural society; and together strive and work together in facing adversities.

*Participants of
Keynote Address by
The Honourable,
Tan Sri Dato’ Hj.
Muhyiddin bin
Yassin, Deputy
Prime Minister of
Malaysia*



Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin bin Yassin admitted that it is easier said than done. As such he believed that it must first start with the resilience of each and every Malaysian, regardless of creed and colour. Malaysians must first inculcate the values and mental resilience that should be distinctive in every citizen. Malaysians must also blend and nurture the importance of tolerance, acceptance and the need to respect and embrace one another which in turn will strengthen the overall resilience of the nation.

He believed the first and of upmost importance will be the role of parents and educators to instil the importance of tolerance (which in context means all aspects of tolerance such as religion, culture, racial and political orientation), acceptance and respect amongst the young. As the nation celebrated her 56th birthday recently, he is encouraged to note the enthusiasm shown by Malaysia's younger generation in the various celebrations nationwide. As the Education Minister, he mentioned about his responsibility to ensure that the Malaysian younger generation is given every opportunity to equip and prepare them to face the needs of the 21st century.

He stressed that when the New Education Blue Print was launched recently, he envisaged our future generation is not only being given the platform and necessary education but above all to have the necessary attitude and mental resilience to face the challenges of the future. The education blueprint regards 'unity' as one of its five aspirations which has remained one of the cardinal goals since the Razak Report of 1956. He added that it also contained a strong sense of national identity which is important for the success of the nation. He is hopeful that with the preparation as future leaders and guardians, the young will have the distinctive traits of a Malaysian. He described the traits as friendly, hospitable, polite, diligent, and tolerant and yet has the necessary attributes in times of hardship and adversity which are to be vigilant and resilient.

Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin bin Yassin explained further that 1Malaysia is a concept to foster unity amongst the multi-ethnic *rakyat* of Malaysia, substantiated by key values that every Malaysian should observe. He said that since its inception, there have been individuals who would try to give their own interpretations on what Prime Minister Najib is promoting.

There are even some who have hijacked this term to serve their self interests. Nevertheless, he is happy to note that Malaysians have indeed been united in many instances when Malaysia's interest is at stake.

He also mentioned sports as an example of a unifying factor. He pointed that many of Malaysians will recall when Dato' Lee Chong Wei played Lin Dan in both the 2008 and 2012 Olympics Badminton finals, the nation from all walks of life wished him well. When he lost on both occasions particularly so closely in the 2012 edition, the nation felt for him. The outpouring of support is testimony of Malaysians coming together for a common cause.

He added that when talking of funds and donations, it is evident that our society will contribute to a worthy cause and this has been proven in the many donation drives organised. As an example, during the many disasters or mishaps that have affected the nation and a portion of our society, our people and organisations contributed generously. Similarly, this aid has also been rendered to countries globally affected by a disasters. Most recently this year the Tabung Wira Lahad Datu received such tremendous response. All these are clear reflections that our people are sensitive and will come together to show their support to a fellow Malaysian and even to the international community when the need arises. But contributing monetary funds is not only the attributes needed to nurture community resilience nor is it a reflection of a community's resilience.

According to him, promoting the resilience of communities especially in Malaysia's multi racial society is complex as it involves the interaction of individuals, families, groups and the environment they are exposed to. But he had no doubts that the resilience of our multi racial community is dependent on social interactions and collective action based on reciprocity, trust and influence. Equally important is the economic wellbeing of the Malaysian community which is closely tied to development and progress made by the nation. He recounted that he can't remember of a better example than during the Emergency period where our people withstood the perils of communist terror and stood as one against a common foe.

He explained that it was not easy to get through but with systematic plans such as the Briggs relocation of certain communities and the

Security and Development Plans or rather known in the Malay Acronym of KESBAN, Malaysians he stated understood what the government was doing and that it was in their best interests. As such they cooperated and had faith in the ruling government which eventually led to the demise of a common enemy. In hindsight, he stressed that if our people realise that whatever actions/regulations undertaken by our leaders is in good faith, it will strengthen their belief and their resilience. As such, he stressed that much emphasis must be given to those who lead - be it by example or simply by their actions which must demonstrate a clear devotion to duty and the people they lead.

He also expressed that when one mentions about resilience, there will certainly be talk about security as both resilience and security is intertwined in the stability, well-being and national security of Malaysia. He added that National Security is a vital component to our stability as a nation which in turn complements the environment for economic growth and prosperity. It is important that our policies implemented over time are able to preserve, maintain and ensure that our nation is free from all threats, be it the traditional or non-traditional security threats. So he found that Malaysian security is inseparable from political stability, economic success and social harmony. Without these elements, our nation would not be able to prevent a potential enemy from intruding and making us vulnerable.

To ensure that Malaysians are always prepared with the security challenges that are bound to occur over time, he stressed that it is important that Malaysia has a total defence capability that not only involves the Malaysian Armed Forces, but the Royal Malaysian Police, other enforcement agencies as well as the entire population. He highlighted that the concept called Total Defence or HANRUH has been in place since 1986 when the threat of the Malayan Communist Party was still looming in Malaysian jungle fringes and border areas. Over time, this concept has been reviewed and revisited to address new security threats which were often unseen and unpredictable. Total Defence/HANRUH he concluded therefore is about our ability as a nation to garner the support of every levels of our society in order to strengthen our resilience as a nation in times of crisis.

In his examination, firstly, Malaysia need to have a coherent Security

Cooperation between the security forces and all enforcement agencies integrated in a systemic manner where they are able to respond to any crisis in a coordinated effort effectively, efficiently and above all in the quickest manner possible. There is no doubt that the Malaysian Armed Forces and Royal Malaysian Police already enjoy such cooperation which is evident from the days of the First Malayan Emergency and until most recently, during the Lahad Datu intrusion early this year. However, what is of most importance is to build on from these and include other agencies and our society in addressing future security threats which may not only come from non-state actors but in a non-traditional manner such as human trafficking, terrorism, cyber security threats and even trans-border crimes. This is because these threats will appear in the most unexpected circumstances and with such speed that any delay in response may be detrimental to the security and well-being of our nation and our people.

Secondly, on the same leverage, he strongly believed that such cooperation must also be extended and imbued in the responses to humanitarian and disaster relief operations when the nation is affected as well as when Malaysian help is needed elsewhere. Whilst we have in place an effective mechanism to address the yearly occurrence of floods or minor disasters, it must be pointed out that future environmental disasters or even pandemics may require greater resolve and vigilance from the Malaysian society. Whilst Malaysian security forces and relevant agencies are battling these security challenges, it is vital for the Malaysian society and private sector organisations to play their part and support these measures by participating in whatever mobilisation or volunteering activities when activated. For this to materialise and be effective in times of crisis, the government must ensure that the society and all agencies are frequently tested. They must take part in mobilisation exercises to upgrade their skills and promote better understanding and strong bonds with each other.

He touched on the Lahad Datu incident and the subsequent *Ops Daulat* to repel the intruders. He said that there are many lessons that could be gained from this incident and certainly one that is most prominent is the threat from non-state actors and in a non-traditional manner. He pointed out that The Lahad Datu incident was indeed a "*Wake Up Call*" to Malaysia and its security forces in particular. He emphasised

that Malaysia has never been known to be an aggressor and very often, diplomacy and restraint are chosen means of approach when faced with an aggressor. However, he concluded that when such avenues are exhausted, and when the lives of Malaysians are threatened and lost, the government must be able to react in a manner that supersedes our friendly demeanour. Malaysian military and police he added must be able to crush our enemies with such ferocity and vigour that this in itself will be a deterrent to any aggressor in future.

Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin bin Yassin mentioned that our security forces must also have the resilience to be involved in a protracted security operation not only in Malaysia but away from our shores when the need arises. For this to happen, he urged both our Armed Forces and Police to always remain vigilant and constantly engage in training simulations and to be prepared for any eventualities. To be fully equipped with the latest weapons and equipment is never enough if one does not have the mental resilience and necessary skills. On this score, he congratulated the MAF in their recent 80th anniversary parade last 21st Sept with the theme of *ATM Perkasa-Kedaulatan Negara Terpelihara* (A Formidable MAF, Sovereignty Safeguarded) which is most apt in describing the role of the MAF. Similarly, he congratulated the RMP for their efforts particularly in ensuring that the domestic security scene is always in control. He expressed that the efforts of these two prominent security agencies as well as other supporting government agencies will ensure that we are prepared to response to any crisis effectively in future.

He sighted that the MAF has been a central pillar in the defence policy of our nation and played a pivotal role in the implementation of all its foreign and defence policies since the early formation of Malaysia. Most recently he mentioned, under the NBOS, the MAF in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Police has been involved in several initiatives to ensure that our internal security is maintained. He stressed that Malaysians must never take security for granted.

He mentioned that he was pleased that several initiatives such as the *Community Policing* which integrates the Police, Army and fellow citizens have been implemented in stages in residential areas nationwide. He believed that this is just the beginning for society in that everyone has a part to play in maintaining the peace and security in Malaysia. There is no

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Prime Minister of
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doubt that when such initiatives are expanded, we will contribute towards the societal and security resilience of the nation as a whole. He reminded the participants of the fact that he quoted from the Prime Minister when he said, *"I believe the biggest challenge facing us in the Asian region is domestic stability. International conflicts have often been caused by internal instability."*

Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin bin Yassin went on to mention about the National Budget 2014 that is fervent with hope of strengthening the economy to ensure that Malaysia remains resilient in the light of global uncertainties. He said that a key facet of this is enhancing domestic resilience as it was important for the country to sustain its economy in as Malaysia transforms itself towards a fully developed high income nation in 2020. The government he added with the *rakyat* and everyday people in mind, hoped that the budget would enable the majority of the lower income group of the Malaysian population enjoy the benefits of the initiatives undertaken by the government.

He highlighted that that on 3 September 2013, the price of petrol in Malaysia went up by 20 cents which were met by groans and unhappiness

everywhere. This is understandable given the fact that Malaysians have enjoyed premium petrol at below market prices for a long time. But what he stressed is that the economic well-being of the country does not grow steadily and continuously in a set pattern. It is a known fact he added that economic activity tends to be dynamic, with periods of relatively rapid growth followed by periods of stagnation, contraction or recession. As such he recounted, that Malaysia has experienced several downturns the past decades such as it did in 1986 and 1997 in which there were hardships faced by some Malaysian entrepreneurs and the drastic measures undertaken by the government then.

He is confident however that with prudent spending and continued resilience, Malaysia is able to withstand the downturn without getting financial aid or monetary bonds from others such as the IMF. As such he stressed that while the government provides subsidies for essential goods and petrol, it must not be done at the expense of leaving Malaysia vulnerable and unable to address the fiscal deficits that the government may face in future. He pointed that in simple economics Malaysian policy must remain vigilant yet pragmatic when it comes to prudent spending and getting our priorities right no matter what outsiders may say.

He recounted also that another milestone in the same month of September 2013 was the launching of the *Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Plan*. This plan, he explained was in the same mode as the New Economic Model. It was not designed to take away the rights of other races but instead allow everyone to enjoy the spill over effects. He also expressed that the government had also introduced the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) to form a national economic development ecosystem which is strong and resilient. As a result of the transformation programme, he believed that the national economy managed to record a strong growth even in an uncertain global economy. In 2011 and 2012, he explained, the rate of growth of the national economy was 5.1 and 5.6 respectively.

As such, Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin bin Yassin urged all Malaysians to be fully aware and understand the measures and initiatives undertaken by the government to prepare Malaysia for any eventualities in future. Also he added, such measures or initiatives adopted is always in the best

interest of the people and will allow us to be resilient in overcoming future setbacks. He stressed that it is important for Malaysia to have the economic prowess in order to prosper as a nation but at the same time, Malaysia must also have the ability and resilience to withstand some of the uncertainties which are bound to recur in future.

He stated that it has been 56 years since Malaysia achieved its independence and progress has been achieved despite the turbulent period in our formative years, as well as the many incidents the past decades that threatened national security. He explained that the years have proven, time and again that when it matters most, Malaysians will stand together and unite as one in the face of adversity and difficulty. He added that as Malaysia enters its final lap towards being a fully developed high income nation in 2020, there would be numerous challenges and threats which may hinder its culmination. Yet, Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin bin Yassin has great faith in Malaysians to rise and face these challenges through resilience which he believed should be enhanced and nurtured at all levels of our society.

He reminded everyone that although Malaysia has numerous security and economic policies in place, the government must remain vigilant against all threats in a most comprehensive manner. He added that recent experiences have taught the government that a security threat will come from the most unlikely source and in a non-traditional manner now. Similarly, he concluded uncertainties in the global economy is bound to have a spiralling effect on the Malaysian economic well-being to which the government will have to constantly monitor and take punitive actions when needed. Finally he congratulated MiDAS for its efforts and was pleased to note that the three sessions which highlights the importance of national resilience, our responses to crises and enhancing security will be able to bring and formulate new ideas to complement the efforts undertaken by the government to enhance Malaysia's national resilience. ■

*Participants of
Keynote Address
by The Right
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bin Yassin, Deputy
Prime Minister of
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Chapter 2

Plenary Session 1 **Strengthening National Resilience: The Malaysian Identity**

MODERATOR

Tan Sri Munir Majid

Chairman of Bank Muamalat and
Distinguished Fellow of MiDAS

SPEAKERS

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz

Chairman of Air Asia X

Tan Sri Dato' Ramon Navaratnam

Chairman of the Centre for Public Policy Studies

Tan Sri Prof Emeritus Dr. Khoo Kay Kim

Professor
Department of History University Malaya

Plenary Session 1 'Strengthening National Resilience: The Malaysian Identity'



Plenary Session 1 moderated by Tan Sri Munir Majid, Chairman of Bank Muamalat and Distinguished Fellow of MIDAS

The first session commenced with the moderator introducing the speakers on the subject of *Strengthening National Resilience: The Malaysian Identity*. The moderator started by having three distinguished speakers to discuss the matter in a very open fashion after 50 years after the formation of Malaysia.

The first speaker, Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz followed up on the earlier opening Keynote Address by YAB Deputy Prime Minister in defining the word Resilience and came up with a few more definitions. She said Resilience also means *Buoyancy*, referred to as the ability to float, *Toughness* and *Elasticity* – stretch and comeback and having the capacity to recover quickly from difficulty. She reminded that if everyone is able to understand the concept of Resilience and having the definition mentioned above in mind, it would give an idea of what is to be expected

if the nation is to be Resilient. She then recapped by elaborating on Malaysia's past challenges, even before the formation of Malaysia, where terrorist insurgency was the biggest challenge for all, beside the May 13th incident that tested the Nation's resilience. Nevertheless she explained, Malaysia being a nation with complex and diverse people, with varied economic or political and social crises in the 70s, 80s and in 1997, it had managed to bounce back every time. Although Malaysia would take some time to recover and be stabilized as a nation again. She then added that, the nation is now operating and living in a very dynamic global environment. As such, the effect and impact of globalization dismantles not only on the economic border but also most importantly on the social front as well. She pointed out that there is of course a very keen competition worldwide when all things domestic may turn regionally and globally due to the advancement of technology, knowledge and innovation which could be also the test of Resilience.

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz also stated that while there is a real-time cross flow of information and knowledge, there should also be a cross flow of values. As a result, there is an Universalisation of Information, values of norms, expectations and aspirations which is more relevant to the generations Y and Z. These two generations are more likely to be 'Universal Citizens' as they aspire and think for the same common thing with the same outlook, and these are some of the challenges faced in moving towards a more Resilient nation. She continued by stating in 2020, Malaysia as a country that wished to be a Developed Nation has been planning to reach that vision for the last 30 years.

She reminded the participants that the nation is in a transition state between the efficiency driven economy or stage of development and stage of innovation development. The nation should not be satisfied to say the country is highly efficient and productive as it would go off soon. So, she urged that as people are moving up towards being a developed nation, its people are required to be highly innovative by ensuring the Innovation Culture is prevalent in the Public and Private Sector as a whole. Innovation means changing of views and the word Transformation refers to changing the way people do things, the way people think and changing the way people approach things. Innovation is required in every level of the society, including at home and how people bring up their

children. Therefore she urged that Innovation should be regarded as a culture or a shift for all levels of society in building up the Resilience that the nation requires when moving towards being a developed nation. By having such transformation the nation can therefore be Resilient to any threats and challenges.

In the economic context, there is an overriding fear of the effects of an economic contagion as Malaysia is a highly exposed economy. Being a nation that is internationally linked and interdependent with the rest of the world in trading, cross flow of investments and internalization. She mentioned in detail that the contagion impact or effect would go cross border, no matter where the economic crisis starts, there will be an impact or effect based on national exposure to the global economy. Therefore there is a need for Malaysians to be Resilient so as not to succumb to any such contagion. A nation is just a country as it does not derive Resilience; it derives from the cumulative Resilience of the individuals of a country as she put it in three main contexts. First of all it is derived from the Resilience and strength of those who govern, mainly the government and politicians, second the economic drivers of the country from the public and private sector and the third group would be the Malaysians as a whole are required to be Resilient. The government should continue to have good and sound political and economic governors that would provide economic resilience as to fight any contagious economic impact. The economic drivers too need to be highly competitive or otherwise, Malaysia would not be the kind of First World Economy as expected in 2020. The economic drivers are mainly the private sectors and not solely the government.

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz was much more concerned about the third group, i.e. Malaysians from the age of 14 years and plus as they will be the shapers of the nation by 2020. The group will be the voters, deciders, workforce and the same group that provides leadership at all levels of the society. Leadership does not only refer to the Prime Minister or the Chief of Defence Force but a leader within the individual circle of influence. These groups of people are the ones that are going to be in society and to take on leadership roles on every level as they would need to carry the Malaysian Identity.

She stated the importance of nurturing youngsters to become Resilient Malaysians so as to understand their roles as stakeholders in the Developed Nation and to be a highly competitive country as to be benchmarked against global best and not only known as *"Jaguh Kampung"*. She also emphasised the need to understand what is excellent in performances either as Malaysians in their own field or as a country. In 2020, Malaysia is expected to be a role model in providing leadership to others around the globe; therefore experience in leading a nation towards a Developed Nation requires a positive mindset especially by the younger generations. She urged all parties to nurture the youngsters' mindset as to resist negative elements with means and ways as to set the energy of the nation by gathering the strength as to overcome any threats or challenges that come along in the near future. The challenge could be to the nation's sovereignty and security. She explained further that the younger generation should be more Resilient in many ways; they should be taught to be proud of being a Malaysian and taught to accept diversity and tolerance. If the people wish to be a Resilient Nation in 2020, the word tolerance should be no longer mentioned as it would be the breaking point for the youngsters in accepting diversity and manifestation that has been set.

In the context of having a strong sense of nationalism and patriotism, Malaysia needs to accept the diversity of its unique ethnics and multicultural society. She pointed out that National Bonding is something that binds people together. This has been inculcated in every generation where National Bonding is concerned as some could pose as a threat resulting in failures and some would make people feel comfortable and happy with great achievement. Therefore, she feels that, National Bonding would have to be built up, otherwise the nation would have a dissipated and diverse people of Malaysia and the issue of Unity would no longer be of concern. Malaysia as a Developed Nation must have an Identity which would ensure that Unity and Diversity exist and would work towards achieving the nation's vision. She urged people to optimize the concept and understand the meaning of Diversity as not being a responsive but as a nation that is proactive and a prepared nation. She cited that the young generation of today should be prepared or be pre-emptive thinkers as to overcome any issue straight away rather than be responsive or reactive to

it. Malaysians have to be given the understanding and continue to identify with good and sound political governors, social stabilities and the abilities to bounce back from any difficulties as she added that the greater the challenges that comes whether in the aspects of economy, geographical border threat and much more, the people ought to be more Resilient in addressing it.

*Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz
as first speaker for
the Session 1*



She said that Malaysia has the experience with institutional memory in dealing with things. The present serving generation may not understand the retirees who can input their experiences into the memory banks. The younger generation do not have the institutional memory in dealing with things, therefore there must be a nurturing process that allows them to fall back and have a look at the experience of the past and add on their own knowledge and capacities at their own disposal in developing the Resilience required. Youngsters of today have such a good life, nevertheless these generations are easily broken emotionally and spiritually in many aspects. It is important to nurture the young from the beginning as to be Resilient. She pointed out that, society is a cumulation of family units where nurturing starts, the Armed Forces for example; the family within the Armed Forces are nurtured first with

patriotism and love for the country. It would be very fortunate if parents nurture their children about the country and the younger generation would have it in their minds on what had been said. Younger generations should be taught about positive accommodation as Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz defined “accommodating positively, that is bringing you into my sphere but not having me to crowd it out”. In other words when there is so much diversity, people need to learn and understand to be accommodating issues positively.

The first speaker concluded her discussion by stating that the younger generation should positively accommodate and not be dogmatic about anything as she clearly says nothing is immovable, nothing is cast in stone and get rid off the nothing attitude as the youngsters today are widely open to such universal values. She ended the discussion with a warning that the nation shall not want the younger generation to see what is happening elsewhere and hoping to bring down the government today with demonstrations as the easy way out. The future of Malaysia with its National Identity lies with the diversity among people and in overcoming any threats and challenges.

The next speaker, Tan Sri Dato’ Ramon Navaratnam commenced his discussion by claiming that vulnerabilities still continues to exist in our nation as such we need to watch out and be alert at all time. He pointed out that the nation has to put a stop to the declining of Resilience and the weak understanding of the meaning of Identity and Unity. He also found such decline in understanding of the Armed Forces and the Police Force whereby no matter how strong the nation’s security forces could be, there are still uncalled reactions that could threaten peace, stability and even national sovereignty. He stated that there is a limit to what any Armed Forces and the Police Force around the world could do to its people without having a real understanding of Resilience and National Unity. The people owe it to the security forces as they are prepared to lay down their lives for the nation and contribute towards Resilience and National Unity. He believed that if someone goes extreme from a very bright future and one on a dismal future, the people would suffer.

As he furthers his views, he sees more balance in mediocrity as he stressed the word mediocrity not meritocratic as the peaceful and stable

*'Tan Sri Dato'
Ramon Navaratnam
as second speaker
for the Session 1*



country with constraints, limited readiness in prosperity and progress for the nation to be more equitable in the future. He also thinks that the nation would have to go through the same scenario for years to come. Malaysia needed to be ready to compete with the world on a sustained basis. To get to the stage of moderation and its progress, the nation needs to have more people democracy with fairer elections and to influence people from doubting the quality of an election. He urged for more check and balance against decline of the worst case scenario. He suggested what the nation needs to have a honest, strong and fairer leadership at all levels for all Malaysians and especially the poor.

He stressed that to strengthen National Resilience, there are several questions that we ought to have in mind. The speaker continued by explaining that a nation could influence its people and make use of the people for the betterment of the country. He outlined three points in his final speech, firstly, remove the weaknesses of racialism and religious bigotry and discrimination to build up Malaysia's Resilience. Discrimination is not racial as it is within race, as the poor feel being discriminated against by having the feeling of the rich is getting richer

and the poor getting relatively poorer. They are the majority as such these people would come and seek help and the rich have got to look after them before they react and say let's look at ours first and leaving the poor behind.

Secondly, he suggested that people got to break through the middle income trap as many Malaysians have been trapped in the position for sometime. He stated that, Malaysians are regarded mostly as selfish and self centred or narrow minded. He thus urged Malaysia to rededicate itself into adapting and implementing the new economic model as a preparation to move away from a middle income to high income nation. In pursuing that course of action, there is a need to examine such a move in terms of National Resilience as a Malaysian, Malaysia and not just according to one's own race and religion. Leaders who defined Malaysian in terms of their race such as Indians, Chinese or Malay first should be re-educated. As a guest speaker he believed that he is first a Malaysian and only then his ethnicity. Tan Sri Dato' Ramon opined that there is no other way to develop resilience better than for people to think of themselves as "BANGSA MALAYSIA" first before race. Only then can Malaysia develop into a global presence with a long term perspective that sustainably supports and strengthens Resilience and National Identity.

Finally he concluded by stressing that National Resilience and the Malaysian Identity can be strengthened only with a strong and steady security and defence system. He recognized that the nation is secure because it has a strong security force that has been improving in recent years. The guest speaker gave a hearty appreciation to the Armed Forces and the Police Force in ensuring the provision of safety and security of the nation that is carried out without any compromising nature. He hoped that the safety and security of this country continues with people Resilience and the Malaysian Identity.

Before handing over to the third speaker, the moderator summarized that both earlier speakers had arrived at similar points with different styles of approach. The moderator acknowledged that people must accept diversity although Tan Sri Dato' Ramon had rightly emphasised the challenges of integration as he ended his discussion with some proposals.

*Tan Sri Prof Emeritus
Dr Khoo Kay Kim as
the third speaker for
Session 1*



The third speaker is a well known historian, Tan Sri Prof Emeritus Dr Khoo Kay Kim. In his presentation, he explained the topic of discussion is a very complex subject as Malaysians as a whole are not aware of how this country became a Nation State. He stated that the people could not distinguish between Nationality and Ethnicity. He pointed out that even in the government document both terms mentioned above are used without proper understanding by all. He cited it is wrong to fill the column "Bangsa" as *Melayu*, *Cina* and *India* because when the day Malaysia became a Nation State the term should no longer be based on ethnicity, but unfortunately Malaysians could not distinguish one term to the other.

He elaborated that, there is no country in the world with two kings but Malaysia has nine, why? He continued by stating that it is because the country is culturally very diversified with dialects between one state to another, and there are differences among the same race. From the historical perspective, he highlighted that the Malay dialect used in Kerian District in Perak is similar to Kedah but the Malay dialect differs in Ulu Perak. Besides that the Chinese of Kuala Lumpur and Perak is different from the Penang Chinese due to some aspects of complexity among the same race. Meanwhile the majority of the Indians have been Tamils since the early days and the first Indian representing or appointed to represent

the Indians in the state legislative council way back in 1924 was a Malayali meanwhile the first Indian appointed to the Federal Council in 1928 was a Telugu. People could not differentiate the Indian from various ethnicity whether they are Telugu, Malayali, Punjabi, Benggali or even the Sikhs. Malaysians need to know that the complexity in this unique country is filled with various race and ethnicity.

Prof Emeritus Dr Khoo Kay Kim also highlighted that the subject on race and ethnics in the country was not given attention in the school syllabus today as focus is much more concentrated on science and mathematics. He then mentioned that the government focus on physics and chemistry to create a nation is virtually irrational. He said, it is also important that society know the people and country that they live in together. Malaysia is blessed with no volcano eruption, no typhoon and are rich with all kinds of natural resources as Malaysia used to export gold, tin and rubber. He reminded participants that Malaysia was once the world number one exporter of rubber but now rubber is brought in from Thailand. However Malaysia still is the number one exporter of Palm Oil in the world until today. Malaysia has never failed in trying out new things, but sad to say its people today still remain separated.

Malaysians today think of themselves in term of their ethnicity and they are uncomfortable when they come together because the sense of belonging is still strong among different cultural groups. As for example, Chinese believe that the number 8 is a good number and the digit 4 is not. Therefore if a person owns a house or property with the significant number 8, lots of Chinese people would come and buy it, while houses with the digit 4 would not even be bought at all. It may be realized that, multiple storey buildings built by the Chinese would not have the sign for 4th floor or 14th floor. Such superstition cannot be just ignored as it is important to the Chinese people. As an example in Brisbane, Australia once there was a bus carrying people from one end to another was not being used for quite sometime by the Chinese community back there due to the believe in the superstition because the bus registration number is 444. A millionaire back in Kuala Lumpur paid one million ringgit for the purpose of purchasing the car registration number plate of BBB 8888, such *feng shui* or belief does happen in our country.

Dr Khoo Kay Kim added that despite the facts that there are differences, it is possible for people to come together especially to recognize the fact that they are simply Malaysian. The Straits Chinese at one time had something in common as they were proud of being British subjects and they would call themselves the King or Queen Chinese depending on whether in England they had King or Queen at that time. Back in 1900, the Chinese formed an association which was called the Straits Chinese British Association but today it has changed as people would call them Malaysian Chinese or Malaysian Indians. He posted a question; *'Does anyone know how the term Malay was first defined?'* as he gestured by saying; *'I think no Malaysian would know.'* It was in the year 1910 during the rubber boom, foreigners were coming into the country to buy up land and rubber. Such action had made the British fear the foreigners would buy up the whole peninsular. Therefore the British had reserved certain land areas for the Malays by passing the Malay Land Reservation Acts back in 1932. That was the first time the Malay term was used. He then stress that, a Malay must be a Muslim, and anyone who is a Malay but left Islam, he or she will be no longer be a Malay. The fear of such act, was brought into the constitution in 1957, that Malay must be Muslims, speaks Malay habitually and practices Malay traditions and customs.

Prof Emeritus Dr Khoo Kay Kim elaborated the next point based on historical facts as he said the British from the very beginning recognized that the legitimate authority in this country was the *'Kerajaan'* and it does not refer as government. He stated that it is wrongly translated; *'Kerajaan'* should mean Kingdom or Monarchy. It is wrong if we refer to the government of Malacca as *'Kerajaan Melaka'* as there is no *'Raja Malacca'* anymore. It has become defunct a long time ago. The Malay Royalty has a very clear tradition. When the *Bugis* were in command of Selangor and their leader, Raja Lumut wanted to use the title *'Sultan'*, he was prepared to sail all the way to Kota Lumut, Perak and have Sultan Mahmud of Perak to bestow him that honour. He added that an American journalist came to Malaysia in the early 1920s and wrote a book with the title *Malayan Symphony*. In that particular book, the journalist described Singapore as the New York of Malaya while Kuala Lumpur as the Washington of Malaya and Malacca as the Mother of Malaya. Many Malaysians have argued with

Dr Khoo Kay Kim about the existence of Hang Tuah, when he stated that there is no proof to say Hang Tuah existed before. He recounted that some had suggested that Dr Khoo's citizenship be withdrawn. But he dismissed that Hang Tuah had "Daulat" as Hang Tuah was only a Laksamana. He argued further that according to the great tradition of Malay Royalty, "Daulat" or legitimacy derived by heritage and thus it is pertinent that it be made known to the citizens in this country.

He added that some tourist guides in the country are badly versed about national history. He recounted once he asked a guide, where they would begin when taking the tourist for a tour in Kuala Lumpur. The response was anywhere. So in response, Dr Khoo had suggested that the tourist guide should take the tourists to Kuala Lumpur where and when it all had first begun. Sadly, to say that the tourist guides do not know where Kuala Lumpur began and why the city was called Kuala Lumpur.

He lamented that subjects like 'Geography' and 'History' are being removed from the school syllabus. While on the other hand, emphasis had been given to 'Science' and 'Mathematics' subjects. He explained further that in creating a nation or to build a nation,



*Participants of
Session 1*

first and foremost the government must build schools to educate the young. Any failure to educate the young would leave them misconstrued and prejudiced, and as they grow older these prejudices would harden. And as the old saying goes, *'A leopard cannot change its spots'*. He recounted that it is so fortunate that Malaysia has everything in its favour. Even the hardest wood in the world which is called *'Kayu Belian'* and is only found in Sarawak but sadly it is not exploited for export. Indeed the nation does not know where its strength lies. He also found it strange when his Chinese friends from China had asked him; *why does Malaysia wish to go into industrialization so seriously?* He cited that Malaysia could not compete with China where industries are concerned. China has all avenues of a huge home market, labour force that no one in the world could match but Malaysia has a tropical climate that China does not have, therefore if the nation grows papaya and pineapple and then export it to China, we would be millionaires. China imports bird nest from Malaysia and one place being converted to produce mass bird nest is Teluk Intan where some of the houses are used for the birds to nest and for the nest is to be collected for export. Besides that and at one time China was buying the lion dance head from Malaya and it is simply amazing but unfortunate that the people do not know what the nation's strength is.

Meanwhile in badminton, the first All China Badminton Champion was an old boy from Anderson School of Ipoh, Perak while the first Malayan Badminton Champion was a Ceylonese, E.S. Samuel who became champion back in 1937. Prof. Khoo believed that Malaysian top players have the edge of becoming coaches in nurturing young Malaysians but unfortunately Malaysia instead sometimes takes coaches from China, Korea and Indonesia to teach our players. He personally saw that badminton today is played with less thinking and more brawn. Malaysia became World Champion in Badminton in the early 1949 after the emergency was declared in the middle of 1948. Prof Emeritus Dr Khoo Kay Kim believes that sports was of tremendous advantage for Malaysia as we have active football clubs with players of all races playing together and they called themselves Malaysians long before 1957. Associations like the Malayan Amateurs Athletics Association, The Malayan Rugby

Association and the Malayan Football Association being founded and established in the 1920s. The nation went to the Olympic Games in 1956 back in Melbourne as MALAYA but the subject of sports has not been taken into consideration seriously in nation building. Malaysia lost millions of ringgit to unmaintained sport facilities such as fields and courts for outdoor and indoor sports activities. We do hear schools selling off their football fields to the developers for development. Whereas in those days sports get tremendous support from the public and in every school the heroes were the sportsmen not those who scored 20As in examinations. As far as sports are concerned most schools are ignoring the importance of glory in sports and its value in strengthening national identity.

The speaker concluded his discussion by saying that students these days argue whether it is easier to score between Arts and Science subjects. He opined that for Science subjects, the student just needed to reproduce answers back, while in the Arts subjects in those days, students needed to argue things out and present the salient points of each argument. As a Historian, Prof Khoo was saddened when subjects like History today are now treated more like Science subjects, where students are more prone to give prescribed answers. As a result, student minds are no longer working hard anymore and most people do not understand their historical and situational context in society, as such it may result in history repeating itself. A segment of Malaysians insists that ethnicity should come first and not nationality and this leads to the difficulty of changing the Malaysian people. Thus, positive ways in grooming children of today with the idea of National Identity must be re-evaluated.

The first response was from Captain Hussaini bin Abdul Karim (Retired) an Activist for Quality Education. He pointed out that on the Education aspect he found it interesting that all the speakers talked about the national school system for not being conducive to strengthening unity. He went on by saying that the National Education Policy which has been introduced since the early 1980s had resulted in the deterioration of our education standard. Therefore, he believed that there is a need for it to be relooked at and changes to be made. He argued that for Malaysian students to be globally competitive, they must increase teaching of English Language and other contents so as to be at par with others

The moderator then moved on to the question and answer session.

*A participant of
Session 1 asking
questions*



globally. However, the usage of Bahasa Malaysia is still paramount. He suggested the deterioration be checked and added that the government should make national schools the schools of choice by revising its syllabus. By doing so, it would foster unity amongst young Malaysians from a very young age.

Vice Admiral (R) Datuk M. Rabi with RAFOC was attracted when the speakers talked about National Resilience in relation to politics as a factor for strengthening or weakening National Resilience. He went on to state that in 1957 we as a nation became a Nation State. He added that Malaysia is a very unique country and therefore had to have a unique constitution and with unique leadership skills. He cited that Malaysia is the only country in the world that has defined race and the race factor in politics is very dominant. Although some have said that there is no future in racial based politics, others believed otherwise. For some he argued a country like Malaysia has its own strength. He asked the speakers where Malaysia's future lies, is it a source of strength or weaknesses.

Major General Affendi from the RMAF commented as there is so much emphasis on National Unity as he mentioned that all the three speakers

have elaborated further from different perspective all together. However as he expressed his view about facts and assumptions as in the past, leaders and intellectuals have defined what unity should be and what National Unity should be and how do the people want to achieve it in years to come. He continued saying that we should look at unity from a different perspective as people today seem to prefer interpreting unity from a different point.

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz responded by saying with regards to school systems or the education policies, people should look at how the system is operationalized. She reminded schools are not run by the minister or ministry or even the civil servants who make policies but it is run by the teaching profession. She said teachers should have the larger and higher motivation for strengthening unity and should not be confined only to the curriculum when it comes to teaching. Teachers should teach beyond what is in the syllabus as that is the essence in nurturing young children positively. She highly hopes to see that the new Education Blueprint would be parallel with really good teachers training as it was before with the existence of the prestigious and well known Teacher's Training Colleges back then. She also urged people to stop politicizing education, its policies and anything that are directly related to people of this country, as any negative effect would bring devastation to the nation.

On the second issue, Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz again emphasised that the nation must continue to be identified as a developed country with good political and economic governance. However she admits, there are those less scrupulous that seek quick political limelight. They tend to zero in at something that is easily 'flammable' to get fast headway in politics. But as 'matured people', Malaysians she said should always subscribe by being Malaysian first before anything else. Nevertheless no one Malaysian should, nor could erase their ethnic identity. Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz also expressed hope that young Malaysians of today are taught the right way and not bound only in the parameters of the national curriculum. This is important even more so in the political and social aspects of diversity and commonality of being Malaysians as well. Commonality is much more important today than Diversity as commonality is for strength and a way towards a healthy system that could cater for all Malaysians.

Tan Sri Ramon agreed that education has been too politicised and as a result people suffer most out of it. Sadly, it is the people themselves that are widening the racial gap and this may soon harm the nation. These are irresponsible groups of people who would be the ones answerable for any errors and conflicts between Malaysians in the future. He then responded on the second point regarding the future of Malaysia. Tan Sri Ramon honestly believed Malaysia does have better prospects for its future because the country is blessed with richness and resources. The country is not to be blamed if we fail to make something out of it. Malaysia he said could be a Model to the world and would be more recognised by the United Nations if the Malaysian people truly respected each other. We need to acknowledge and accept with a greater understanding of "diversity". It should be our strength and not our weakness. Replying and talking about Nationality at different viewpoints, Tan Sri Ramon had pointed out that the important thing Malaysians have in common are our basic needs. Unfortunately, Malaysia still has some pockets of poverty and disparity in its midst. He explained that the nation in some parts of the country still lack access to basic health, education, housing and good transportation.

Prof Emeritus Dr Khoo Kay Kim offered his opinion that the people at the grassroots level should be made to understand the complexity of a multicultural Malaysia. He recounted that the country used to have an excellent Teacher's Training Colleges but now many of the institutions have disappeared and some have vanished. The teachers of today need more grooming to become above the average class of teachers who just mundanely teach from Monday to Friday. They should go into the teaching profession and into excellent colleges to become superb teachers. These superb teachers are the sort that are willing to go the extra mile and care for the pupils needs. He recounted that in order for us to build a nation, we have got to start with the young as we cannot achieve it as easily as we could with the adults.

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz added at the final session, proposing to the security and defence participants from the Malaysian Armed Forces and other related agencies that their people should re-establish or strengthen once again the cadets' network in schools. She thought that the outreach

method that the government uses today to attract the young is too superficial. Likened to something like 'Touch N' Go'. She stated that the government ought to implant into the youngsters the right behaviour and nurture the right minds for the benefit of longer term national perspectives.

Tan Sri Dr. Mohd Munir Abdul Majid as the moderator finally wrapped up the session by stating two relevant points; despite all the problems that the nation is facing with regards to National Unity and National Identity. There is a common sentiment among the speakers as they addressed the issue surrounding National Identity with most of the audience in the conference. It means there is a common ground in believing there is a need to strengthen National Unity and National Resilience in facing the challenges and threats of uncertainties. Next, the moderator highlighted the need to start with the young as soon as possible and there is a need to fast track the development of the sense of National unity that everybody is speaking about. Finally he thought that there is a need for leadership from the political leaders in order to correct those who are negative and subversive to National Identity and Resilience. ■



*Vice Admiral (R)
Datuk M. Rabii
asking questions*



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STRENGTHENING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

Chapter 3

Plenary Session 2 **National Resilience: Responding to Crisis**

MODERATOR

Prof Dr Dato' Dr. Zakaria Hj. Ahmad

Senior Vice President of HELP University
and Distinguished Fellow of MiDAS

SPEAKERS

Gen Tan Sri Dato Seri (Dr.) Zulkifeli Mohd Zin

Chief of Defence Force Malaysia

Baharuddin Abdul Hamid

Undersecretary, National Security Council

Dato' Dr. Ahmad Faizal Mohd. Perdaus

President
MERCY Malaysia

Plenary Session 2

‘National Resilience: Responding to Crisis’



Plenary Session 2 was moderated by Prof Dr Dato' Dr. Zakaria Hj. Ahmad Senior Vice President of HELP University and Distinguished Fellow of MiDAS

The first speaker, Gen Tan Sri Dato Seri (Dr.) Zulkifeli Mohd Zin, Chief of Defence Force Malaysia began by giving some background of end of the Cold War in the late 20th Century that brought forth many phenomenon, which altered the global geo-strategic landscape. This breakthrough afforded economies to flourish, technologies to develop and helped enhance human security by leaps and bound. The increased wealth enjoyed by society at large created a state of interdependency,

shifted economies towards industrialization with strong dependence on energy sources such as oil and gas. Similarly, this state of affairs triggered demographic restructuring with urbanization taking place at earnest as society rushed to increase its affluence. The downside of this phenomenon could be observed in highly populated urban areas, the rise of environmental degradation and the rush to acquire increasingly scarce natural resources by nation states. The dynamics of this shift has opened windows of opportunities while at the same time exposed societies to calamities, which could threaten not only national sovereignty but human security as well. The situation is further worsened with the degradation of the environment triggering a number of natural crises, which affronts the wellbeing of society and leaves behind a significant trail of destruction. Hence, despite a relatively peaceful existence, the global geo-strategic environment remains strongly influenced by Vulnerability, Uncertainty, Complexities and Ambiguities (VUCA).

He added that granted this state of affairs, nations and societies will have to confront numerous crises whether human induced or sparked by nature. Similarly, the increased dependency over scarce resources has created numerous Traditional and Non-Traditional Security challenges, which could threaten the peace and stability of not only of nation states but also regions as a whole. In this sense, it is pertinent that as nations accumulate wealth, the state of national resilience must be enhanced concurrently. Considering the wide spectrum of hazards that society is exposed to, it is critical that responses to differing crisis would have to be wide ranging, comprehensive and timely to ensure that resilience is maintained under such dire circumstances. In this case, the Malaysian Armed Forces, granted its organizational structure and behaviour, could provide critical response during such crisis.

Gen Tan Sri Dato Seri (Dr.) Zulkifeli Mohd Zin highlighted that National resilience is generally understood as measures to *"...support own citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards"*. Hence, national resilience is not a God given attribute but a capacity, which needs to be developed and sustained by *'whole of government'* policies and measures involving government agencies, Government Linked Companies (GLCs) and Non-Government

Organizations (NGOs). National Resilience remains the bedrock of our Total Defence Strategy, of which this outlook has been embedded into the National Defence Policy (NDP), and subsequent Joint and Single Service strategies.

He believed that the Malaysian Armed Forces, in line with its role and tasks, is involved in every facet of building, sustaining, improving, responding, recovering and mitigating crisis within the realm of National Resilience. Nation Building programs such as the Hearts and Mind Operations, Security and Development Strategy (KESBAN), National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS), National Service programs and others are measures taken to build and improve National Resilience. That said, it is the ability of the Malaysian Armed Forces to respond to crisis that threatened National Resilience, which has propelled this Force as a major denominator in the Resilience equation today.

Thus, he explained that the highest agency entrusted in managing national crisis is the National Security Council (NSC). This Council, which is chaired by the Prime Minister, is the operational arm of the Cabinet in relation to all matters involving National Security. Its responsibilities include the provision of overall command, mobilization and coordination of national resources for internal security and external defence, and the management and conduct of war effort. In this context, the NSC assumes the role as the coordinator besides supervising the centre of operations.

He pointed out that in coordinating a '*whole of government*' approach towards crisis; the NSC to date has produced 21 National Security Council Instructions (NSCI) to document the roles and tasks of the various government agencies during such circumstances. Out of the 21 instructions, two specific directions are closely related to the Malaysian Armed Forces namely; NSCI No 18 on Counter-Terrorism, NSCI No 20 on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

Gen Tan Sri Dato Seri (Dr.) Zulkifeli added that the dynamics and escalatory nature of crisis today would entail comprehensive, timely and continuous responses to the various forms of crisis. The first is Doctrine. The Malaysian Armed Forces maintain two key doctrines to support responses in the event of crisis. These two doctrines are Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW) and Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC), which would provide guidelines in the provision of assistance

during crisis. These publications were developed in line with the various National Security Council Instructions and would be compatible with procedures adopted by other government agencies, Government Linked Companies and Non-Government Organisations. The procedures in both Doctrines are continuously applied during exercises with other government agencies and subjected to constant revision to afford relevancy.



Gen Tan Sri Dato Seri (Dr.) Zulkifeli Mohd Zin as the first speaker for Session 2

The second is Preparedness. A critical factor in providing strong responses during crisis would be the state of preparedness within the Malaysian Armed Forces. For major crisis, every Service (whether Army, Air Force or Navy) would maintain strategic reserves under their respective Chiefs for all eventualities. The state of preparedness is measured empirically daily and reported to the Defence Operations Centre in MINDEF.

The third is Command and Control. The key factor to ensure that responses from the Malaysian Armed Forces are timely, well balanced in capacities and coordinated would be through effective Command and Control (C2). In the event of a crisis, the Malaysian Armed Forces

would establish communication and liaison with the various ad-hoc committees established through the respective National Security Council Instructions at all levels. The Malaysian Armed Forces is represented in these Committees and request for assistance will be channelled through the Chain of Command. In this sense, we will be able to ensure continuous situational awareness and formulate the best force combination to be employed during a particular crisis.

The fourth is being Self-Contained. The Malaysian Armed Forces is a self-contained organisation with organic assets and myriad of specialist to afford deployment as a single entity. Deployment of the Malaysian Armed Forces units will bring within its integral logistic arrangement.

The fifth is Civil-Military Cooperation. While the Malaysian Armed Forces is self-contained, it would still require the support and assistance of civil agencies or organisations. This is more so if the quantum of the crisis would be beyond the capacity for it to handle effectively. As such, it is pertinent that a systematic and structured Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) architecture be in place in the event of any crisis.

The sixth is Strategic and Tactical Reach. The response designed to meet various crisis must be projected rapidly and in the correct quantum to the areas in which these calamities occur. For that purpose, the Malaysian Armed Forces possess strategic (fixed wing aircrafts and logistics vessels) and tactical mobility platforms (helicopters and land vehicles) though quite limited in number. These assets could be deployed in short notice and would be able to move personnel and stores to the afflicted areas. The purchase of the airbus A400M will then further enhance the strategic lift for MAF in the future.

The seventh is Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR). The escalatory nature for crisis will impact significantly on any responses played. As such an effective ISR system to continuously feed real time information to planners is vital. The Malaysian Armed Forces possess extensive Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capabilities whether human or electronic in nature.

The eighth is Intangible Strength. The Malaysian Armed Forces continuously endeavours to balance both tangible and intangible strengths within its organisation. Personnel are induced with willingness to sacrifice which provide a highly motivated and competent source of

human capital. Over and above that, the *esprit de corps* and camaraderie spirit instilled within units will ensure strong cohesion and unity of effort even under severe circumstances.

The ninth is First Responder Protocol. The Malaysian Armed Forces is well organized to be the first responder during crisis granted its capacities. It abides by the victim, first on site, first in site, to provide immediate response and confidence in the system.

Gen Tan Sri Dato Seri (Dr.) Zulkifeli also went on to explain that the Malaysian Armed Forces in its 80 years of existence, has been confronted with a number of crisis, which provided the organisation to Learn, Unlearn and Relearn vital lessons in providing sound responses. To better illustrate the Malaysian Armed Forces ability to respond to complex crisis, some events have been picked.

He began with OP FAJAR. On 29 August 2008, two MISC tankers BUNGA MELATI DUA and BUNGA MELATI 5 were hijacked by Somali pirates off the Gulf of Aden. For that purpose, OP FAJAR was initially launched by the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) to free both tankers but as the two ships were liberated without any incidents, the government then instructed the Malaysian Armed Forces to provide escorts to Malaysian flagged



Participants for the Session 2 taking notes

ships plying that dangerous waterway. Two RMN vessels undertook this responsibility on a rotational basis. In the long run, a strategic collaboration was struck with MISC in 2009, which refurbished two of its ships, BUNGA MAS LIMA and BUNGA MAS ENAM into Naval Auxiliary Vessels with the capability of escorting Malaysian flagged vessel through the Gulf of Aden. To date, 476 MISC ships with estimated trade value worth RM60 billion have been escorted during the 23 series of OPS FAJAR. The operation is on-going until today.

Next he elaborated on OP PIRAMID. The Malaysian Armed Forces was instructed by the government to evacuate Malaysian citizens stranded in Egypt due to the internal unrest that ousted President Hosni Mubarak on 1 February 2011. The operation designated OP PIRAMID was intended to evacuate 11,000 Malaysian citizens in a country wrecked with lawlessness. For that purpose, the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) combined efforts with MAS, Air Asia and MISC to evacuate Malaysian subjects in batches from Cairo and Alexandria to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Further collaboration was established with Lembaga Tabung Haji and various Malaysian NGOs to provide reception to the evacuees in Jeddah before flying them back to Malaysia. Needless to mention that many challenges were faced along the way but this was overcome effectively. Over a period from 3 February until 7 February 2011, a total of 7,392 evacuees were flown back to Malaysia utilising 3 x RMAF C-130 aircrafts, one MAS Boeing 747 and two Air Asia Airbuses. The success of OP PIRAMID reflects the strong Civil-Military Cooperation between the various government agencies, Government Linked Companies and Non-Government Organisations in effectuating this critical response.

Then he further elaboration on OP DAULAT. On 12 February 2013, reports were received on the incursion of more than 200 self-styled Royal Sulu Security Forces (RSF) into Kg Tandou in Lahad Datu claiming Sabah for the Sultan of Sulu. The government instructed for negotiations to be conducted to avoid bloodshed. Concurrently, a total of 5538 soldiers, sailors, and airmen with support elements were deployed within the period of two weeks. To date, this is the biggest deployment in terms of manpower and asset by the Malaysian Armed Forces to be ever concentrated. The conduct of the operation displayed unity of purpose by the various agencies. There was a strong political will, tough resolve,

and unmatched show of public support through messages, contributions of donations from throughout the country and continuous prayers by citizens from every walk of lives for the safety of our personnel from the security forces. The resolute cooperation between the Malaysian Armed Forces and the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) was the product of NBOS that was embarked on a few years ago.

Finally he elaborated on OP NIPAH. On December 1998, the country was afflicted by deadly Japanese Encephalitis virus that had resulted with the loss of 104 lives in Bukit Pelandok. This necessitated the eradication of few thousands affected pigs, and only the MAF was capable of undertaking such grave risk. This was successfully conducted, with only one soldier infected by the disease.

Gen Tan Sri Dato Seri (Dr.) Zulkifeli believed that the ever daunting challenges in both traditional and non-traditional security issues have compelled the Malaysian Armed Forces to continuously review the Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW) doctrine. This is done so in conjunction with measures taken by the Government through the NSC.

Be that as it may, there are areas which he indentified that would need further improvement to effectuate efficient and effective responses in the future. These issues are as follows:

- a. Total Defence. The Malaysian Armed Forces fully supports the development of this concept in order to ensure a more holistic response to a whole wide spectrum of crisis. The formulation of the Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW) and Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) doctrines with other collaborative policies should mark the way towards empowering HANRUH in the future.
- b. Strategic Collaboration. Strategic collaboration between the Malaysian Armed Forces and the various government agencies with Government Linked Companies and Non-Government Organisations through NBOS need to be intensified. Further opportunities should be explored to from time to time.
- c. Full Spectrum Force. The Malaysian Armed Forces has embarked on transforming itself into a Full Spectrum Force in the future. This capacity would afford the organisation to respond to a myriad of crisis efficiently and effectively without compromising

its principal task. To meet this end, the Malaysian Armed Forces is closely monitoring its Development Plan or 4DMAF and transforming MAN, MACHINE and METHODS trilogy to effectuate this capacity.

- d. Public Awareness. It is important that the public be made aware that preservation of national resilience should not be abdicated to the Malaysian Armed Forces or any government agencies. It is the responsibility of every Malaysian citizen to ensure that national resilience is enhanced through their active participation. Here, the Malaysian Armed Forces will support whatever measures the government initiates to help strengthen national resilience through further awareness campaigns.

Gen Tan Sri Dato Seri (Dr.) Zulkifeli Mohd Zin in ending his speech concluded that Malaysia has been confronted with a number of challenges, whether natural or human induced in the past. It is heartening to note that we have overcome these challenges effectively and continue to develop the country as a model to the international community. That said however, the spirit of patriotism and nationalism which are the core to national resilience could be eroded if neglected over time.

The second speaker, Mr. Baharuddin Abdul Hamid, Undersecretary, National Security Council began his presentation on the function of NSC towards any crisis. He explained that the national crisis management of Malaysia was guided by four NSC directives, which coordinate national, state and regional crisis management.

These 4 directives are:

- a. NSC directive No. 18, which provides the guideline in the handling and managing of terrorist crisis. This directive was issued following the kidnapping incident in Pulau Ligitan and Sipadan
- b. NSC directive No. 20, which is the policy and mechanism on natural disaster and relief management as a result of the collapse of the Highland Towers in Ampang
- c. NSC Directive No. 21, pertaining to the handling and management of threats to public order
- d. NSC Directive No. 24, pertaining to the policy and mechanism in cyber crisis.



Mr. Baharuddin Abdul Hamid as the second speaker for Session 2

He added that a crisis is an abnormal situation or perception which is beyond the scope of everyday business and can threaten the operation, safety and reputation of a country. Therefore crisis is a change that may be, a sudden change that may take some time to evolve. But it may result in an urgent problem with a high level of uncertainty that must be addressed immediately. A crisis can occur in many forms such as natural disaster situations that includes floods, tsunami, storm or even man-made crisis such as a terrorist attack, cyber terrorism, hijacking and others.

Mr. Baharuddin Abdul Hamid further emphasised that the people responsible at the NSC mainly look at how to respond, or in responding to crisis, they believe that NSC needs a very comprehensive Crisis Management Plan which includes elements of preparation, management and evaluation. To the NSC, Crisis Management does not start when the

crisis occur or end when the crisis is over. Crisis Management requires action before a crisis happens, while the crisis is unfolding and after the crisis has ended. Therefore, Crisis Management has always been a feature of good public management. When responses go wrong, a crisis can escalate but when the crisis is well managed, the impact of crisis can be minimised. Some crisis demands a fast and effective whole government approach as the skill sets and the capacity is beyond the capability of any individual agency or department. At times, some crisis needs input from NGO, local or international community.

Mr. Baharuddin Abdul Hamid explained that when there is talk of National Resilience and Crisis Management, both share common root and requirement;

- a. Firstly, the need to assess threat and vulnerability
- b. Secondly, the need to develop plans and procedures
- c. Finally, the need to have access to accurate and quick response which, in this context, National Resilience, including resilience at federal level, state level, and local communication level.

He went on to say that the national resilience concept must be applied at all levels including individual, community, district, state and national. He gave an example and illustrated the policy that NSC had pertaining to Disaster Management in which is directive No. 20 was used. After the collapse of Highland Tower in December 1993, the government realised that there is a need to;

- a. Formulate a policy and mechanism of disaster management in an integrated, coordinated and systematic manner to manage and handle disasters on hand;
- b. Have an integrated management system to deal with any kind of disaster;
- c. Have a sound system of coordination among agencies in Search and Rescue operation, as well as Relief and Rehabilitation;
- d. And finally have a highly specialised and highly skilled Search and Rescue team.

Mr. Baharuddin Abdul Hamid went on to say in this NSC directive, it lists out the types of disaster that requires a government response ranging from floods, droughts, landslides, industrial disaster, transportation,

collapse of high-rise buildings, air crash in populated areas, train collision, fire outbreaks in large areas, Community Based Rescue Management (CBRM), mishaps, haze, uncontrolled epidemics and pandemics, and other disasters so declared by the government. In NSC directive No. 20, three levels of incidence or disasters were laid down,

- a. Level 1 – a localised disaster which is managed by a district or local authority;
- b. Level 2 – a disaster that spreads to more two districts, meaning to say, state disaster committee has to be activated;
- c. Level 3 – disaster involving more than 1 state where State and National Disaster Committee have to be activated.

Apart from that he elaborated that the directive also puts in place the response mechanism towards any disaster to ensure that an orderly coordinated and effective management of any disaster can be established. In this respect there are two components on the command and control;

- a. The 'on scene' command post - that is to be headed by the police;
- b. The disaster operations control centre can either be at district office or police contingent.

Apart from having the command post, the management of 'on-site' disaster incident is divided into three zones:

- a. The *red zone* covers the area of disaster. In this zone, especially the operation areas, the rescue team requires specific expertise, such as special unit from SMART, fire and rescue department, the Malaysian Armed forces (MAF), the Ministry of Health and Civil Defence Department.
- b. The *yellow zone* (inner ring) covers the areas surrounding the red zone that is determined by the 'on-scene' commander. This zone is allocated for the 'on-scene post' for the rescue agencies as well as other specialised agencies.
- c. The *green zone* (outer ring) covers the area outside yellow zones, which accommodate the relief and rehabilitating agencies including Welfare Department.

Mr. Baharuddin Abdul Hamid also pointed that apart from having national directives, the NSC also requests agencies involved in the four national directives above to create their own Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on how to respond to a crisis. The NSC, as the lead

agency in managing disaster has also created what it terms as Disaster Risk Reduction Effort (DRRE). Towards this end, the NSC, in order to increase public awareness and public resilience to disaster, has started a program called Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM). This is aligned to the slogan “community resilience through disaster awareness”.

He continued explaining that CBDM has a two prong strategy that is initiated by the government. Firstly is to serve as a platform to convey information on disaster to risk prone areas or community. Secondly is to build a community that is resilient and able to take action to save themselves, their families, neighbours and community members when disaster strikes. In this respect, the NSC, together with Malaysian Meteorological Department has been proactive in conducting drill exercises in tsunami prone areas involving local community to instil awareness and equip them with the right knowledge on how to best react during disaster.

*Participants of
Session 2*



He pointed that the government has also initiated the national disaster relief fund to provide assistance to disaster victims to enhance their overall resilience to disasters. This includes the reconstruction of settlements that were destroyed during the disaster. This has led to an opportunity to tackle some of the weaknesses of low income housing and thus turning them into a more sustainable, safe and resilient habitat.

Mr. Baharuddin Abdul Hamid explained that among the challenges that NSC faces (especially when it is the agency responsible for coordinating a number of agencies), is having to deal with the interest of agencies and interest of the committee that are managing the disaster. This is one of the most difficult aspects of management i.e. managing different agencies, different needs, and different personalities. Therefore he summarised, to be able to seek and coordinate in order to move in one direction, is an effort that must be established. Secondly, there is a need to have constant communication within operating agencies on the ground to coordinate relief operations. Towards the end, apart from having a normal form of communication, we are also using the Government Integrated Radio Network (GIRN) as a common communication platform. Accurate and timely information on current crisis must be made available to all so that a correct and accurate decision can be made to mitigate any crisis. Finally, he closed his presentation with this remark, "what is certain about a national security threat is the uncertainty of where it is coming from".

Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal, President of MERCY Malaysia as the final speaker thanked the MAF and MiDAS in particular, for inviting Mercy Malaysia to this conference. He mentioned that it was an honour and indeed a pleasure to be at the conference. He felt that to some it might look funny to some people but in some countries as it is a total aberration when an NGO presents military topics and eluded that the MAF deserved an applause for inviting MERCY into the conference.

In his presentation, he eluded to the point of National resilience responding to crisis from a civil society perspective. He was hopeful that at the end of his short presentation, the most important message that he hoped to send was that the armed forces, civil society and community should not be separated and there should not be any war that separates them except in the direst emergency and the direst extreme of security

situation, and even then the limits of those worlds should be clearly defined.

Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal began by explaining what resilience meant. Some of the definitions include subtleness, spring, flexibility, elasticity, strength, toughness, adaptability and hardiness. He explained that there is no Malay word for resilience and *ketahanan* is perhaps the nearest word to it. But it does not capture everything. Another definition of resilience is the ability to recover quickly from illness, change, misfortune or buoyancy, the property of material that can be applied to an organisation as well that enable it to resume its original shape or position after being bent, stretched, or compressed, after being hit by a super typhoon, and how a community comes back. And all this is relevant to what we are saying today.

Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal as the third speaker for Session 2



He explained that from a purely humanitarian perspective that he had experienced before and had seen at the Federation of Red Crescent and the Red Cross Movement, It could be put that from a disaster perspective; it is the capacity to survive, adept and recover. And from an overarching perspective, the reason for conflicts as well as disasters, and the potential of a particular configuration of a system to maintain its structure and functions in a face of a disturbance and change. Change and disturbance are the keywords here. Adaptability is a keyword. Survival is another keyword and Recovery is the keyword.

Thus he elaborated that it is not just about one aspect of resilience. There is individual resilience, there is family resilience, and community resilience, institutional resilience and that can be applied into something like the armed forces. Organizational resilience, again to an organization like the armed forces in a country both usually an organization as well as an institution on what MAF represent, is probably just as important as what MAF are, and then the wider concept of today for regional resilience.

Malaysia he pointed out is no longer an island. Although our neighbour down south is still an island, but in Asia, at least Malaysia he argued now have almost no borders. And there is a changing context, both in the country as well as outside. There are increased numbers of reasonable natural hazards provoking disasters and some of these are manmade. Landslides occur sometimes not because of climate change but because of over development and climate change adaptation, of course. There are less new laws with one superpower and a great deterrent nuclear force available in five or six superpowers that have them. We are no longer seeing major world wars but there are long standings and forgotten crisis. There is also increased number of actors in all fields, including disaster relief and humanitarian aid, NGO, private sectors, and including military.

Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal said that the MAF, since 2005, has been actively engaged in civil military coordination efforts especially in natural disaster both at home and abroad. Military operations of course means armed defence. The United States of America has integrated their mission in Afghanistan and Iraq whereby they have armed escorted civil forces as well as the civilian in the military uniform conducting rehabilitation

programme. Challenges include increase incidence of national disasters. And worldwide community will be easily updated with these issues due to our current technology and ability to spread the news and disaster all over the world such as the international armed conflict like what is happening in Syria and Sudan. As an example, Hezbollah is one of the Arab groups who involve in the conflict that happens in their own country, and that, is a fact where it can cause a lot of internal incidence that affect the whole community. There are increases of complexity on humanitarian issues and at the same time we notice that tsunami hit Aceh during the armed conflict and these disasters has led to a peaceful agreement between the conflicting parties.

As such he suggested that risk assessment could be done to minimize the risk of natural disaster. Disaster resilience is the goal of Mercy Malaysian organization. There are four pillars of resilience and they are; preparedness, protection, emergence respond and recovery. Living with risk, who are not ready will have lots of problems to deal with current situation. On the other hand, there are increase demands within the community and decrease capability in community in equilibrium. It is very crucial for the community to react or to take action during a natural disaster. He explained further that NGO has played an important role to increase awareness within the government sector to work on upcoming natural disasters, in order to reduce risk towards the community. Building understanding in the community will help to reduce the losses of life and MERCY calls this as a disaster reduction model. The objective is to build a culture of disaster preparedness and to build resilience in the target community.

He explained that the people of Syria that are involved in war is a great example for Malaysia to learn from. He pointed that MERCY can say that Syrians are able to survive until now. Their community may have something to tell from the word resilience, and maybe the meaning of it is totally different to them but Malaysians can learn something from what they have experienced. He speculated that if we Malaysians were involved in the war like them, are we prepared. So, our mission and objective is to shape and to train our community to be able to sustain like them; to increase the community survival level in our own community. Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal ended his

presentation by requesting the audience to look at the pictures of children of Syria which he presented. He believes that the pictures of the children has got something to share even though in the eyes of the world community, they have nothing, but to him, they got everything that they have to survive in such a critical situation. He concluded by rallying everyone attending to work together for a great future of our community. ■

*Presentation of
memento*





MIDAS CONFERENCE

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STRENGTHENING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

Chapter 4

Plenary Session 3 **Enhancing Security through National Resilience**

MODERATOR

Prof Dato' Sri Dr. Syed Arabi Syed Abdullah Iddid

Professor, International Islamic University
And Distinguished Fellow of MiDAS

SPEAKERS

Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar

Inspector General of Police Malaysia

Prof Dr. Mansor Mohd Noor

Ethnic Research Institute
National University of Malaysia

Dato' Azman Amin Hassan

Director General
National Unity and Integration Department Malaysia

Plenary Session 3

'Enhancing Security through National Resilience'



Plenary Session 3 was moderated by Prof. Dato' Sri Dr. Syed Arabi bin Syed Abdullah Idid Professor, International Islamic University Malaysia & Distinguished Fellow of MiDAS

The third plenary session started off with the moderator introducing all distinguished speakers of the session. The first speaker, Inspector General of Police, Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar began his presentation by expressing that policing in Malaysia is becoming increasingly complex. Security and safety in Malaysia are beginning to reflect a new reality which all stakeholders need to realize and embrace or risk losing everything or even worse, be rendered irrelevant. He added that people must not think of crime primarily as an individual choice but it must be seen as something that had emerged from the social psychology of the community. Reflecting that, when neighbourhoods feel disorganized and fearful, crime increases.

Tan Sri Khalid felt that dealing with crime requires constant innovation. When a phobia is worse than its reality, a more conspicuous effort is needed to reach a certain degree of comfort. The end result should result in the embrace of the popular perception a friendly police force fighting crime with minimum risk to the public. It creates a sense of security in the community through direct engagement. He expressed that by flooding criminal active zones with on-the-beat police and auxiliary personnel. It should provide relief, and dissuade people from taking measures on their own.

He elaborated that policing is an important element in securing general safety and public order. In countries where community involvement is the practice, the career criminal has little space to move. In short, although the police force is the backbone of law and order in any well-organized society, the expectation that crime is eliminated without the cooperation of civil society is ridiculous. Much like the responsibility of educating children, it cannot be left to teachers alone; so the same can be said for crime reduction.

When people today talk about growing economies they usually refer to China, India and Women. Nonetheless, when the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) talks about crime reduction strategies, we emphasize on community policing, education and Women. In emphasising his argument on the importance of Women's Role in a Nation's Resilience, Tan Sri Khalid quoted the late Chairman Mao Zedong's famous proclamation that "Women hold up half the sky". He elaborated further that "We hear about the glass ceiling in developed countries but in Asia, it is much more a sticky floor. They are all stuck at the bottom." He added that we have moved from an old world where, if you were a girl, your rights were what others decreed, your status what others ascribed to you, and if your mother was so poor, so too would you always be. But today's movement is not just for emancipation but for the empowerment of women. According to the United Nations, failure to integrate women fully into the workforce is costing the Asia-Pacific region about US\$89 billion or RM293.7 billion a year in unrealized output.

In the context of fighting crime in Malaysia, the RMP have launched, amongst others, the Amanita programme that acknowledge the significant number of women at home during office hours. Women he

argued can be the eyes and ears of the police during this temporary “void”. To emphasize the importance of women, he relates a conversation in a 1975 Hindi film “Deewar” (War) where in a machismo display of sibling rivalry, one brother said: “Today, I have a bungalow, a car, money... What do you have? The other brother responds, “I have our mother” - this reflects the importance of women.

The country that will thrive the most in the 21st century he argued, will be the sort that is most successful at converting its youth bulge into a “demographic dividend” that keeps paying off every decade, as opposed to a “demographic bomb” that keeps going off every decade. That will be the society that provides more for its youth in term of education, jobs and the voice they seek to realize their full human potential. This race is about “who can enable and inspire more of its youth to build broad societal prosperity” and that’s all about leaders, parents and teachers creating environments where young people can be on a quest, not just for a job, but for a career – for a better life far surpassing their parents. Countries that fail to do so will have a youth bulge that is not only unemployed, but unemployable. The sort of youths that is disconnected in a connected world, despairing as they watch other youths of other nation build and realize their potential. Sadly left unmanaged there might be a strong possibility that such youths could be absorbed into the dark world of crime and illegality.

He added that the real responsibility for generating better, more peaceful and more compassionate world belongs to the “new generation”. There are a lot of possibilities for them to build a happier and more peaceful world. There is a need for a continuous national programme of moral strengthening and reinforcement to make Malaysian youths more aware of their responsibilities to themselves, the community and the nation. What we need is youth empowerment.

The obsession with schooling is a legacy of Confucianism, a 2,500 year old tradition of respect for teachers, scholarship and meritocratic exams. Education is a top priority in East Asia. The best way to sustain a nation’s competitiveness is to build human capital. Our long-term strength will depend less on our fighter jets and tanks than on the robustness of our kindergartens, less on financing spy satellites, than on financing education grants. Education serves many other purposes than simply

the acquisition of knowledge and skills, for it also secures the mobility, competitiveness and security of nations.



Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, Inspector General of Police as first speaker for Session 3

Tan Sri Khalid strongly urged the government to emphasize on “Early Childhood Education”. It builds a foundation for school success and “success breeds success” that deflect criminality. One of the most studied initiatives in this area was the Perry Pre-school Program. The result showed that children who went through the Perry Program were 22% more likely to finish high school and were arrested less than half as often for felonies.

The question before us therefore isn’t about whether we can afford to ignore “Early Childhood Education”, but whether we can afford not to provide it. He argued that although we can pay for prisons. We can pay LESS, for “Early Childhood Education” - to help build a safer and more peaceful Malaysia. In education, you are nurturing the future of the nation. In education, we are talking about “policing” of the “future”, “policing” the “future generations”. A future generation of Malaysians that think intelligently is critical and remaining creative as a workforce. That

workforce would be able to contribute positively to a thriving economy. We want to be competitive in a globalised world by providing a Malaysian generation that is innovative when innovations matter and to be adaptable, agile and flexible and above all to be as marketable the world over. There is a famous saying among Asians that states; "In order to build a nation, first build a school."

As one of the region's most dynamic economies, Malaysia has an impressive track record of sustained economic growth and substantial poverty reduction. Since the 1970s, Malaysia has successfully reduced poverty that besieged nearly half of the population through various poverty eradication programmes carried out by the government. Today, Malaysia is well on target to achieving the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. In 2012, the country's poverty rate decreased to 1.7% from the 16.5% in 1990.

Malaysia introduced a transformation plan built on three pillars, each symbolizing a key reform agenda. The 1st pillar was the Government Transformation Plan (GTP), the 2nd was the Economic Transformation Plan (ETP) and the 3rd was a comprehensive political transformation. Its ultimate goal is to ensure inclusivity as well as sustainability in achieving growth. During periods when the very rich took home a much smaller proportion of total income the nation as a whole grew faster and median wages surged. We created a virtuous cycle in which an ever growing middle class had the ability to consume more goods and services, thereby stoking demand. The rising tide did in fact lift all boats.

Tan Sri Khalid elaborated that in the context of enhancing security through National Resilience, the crux is that economic growth must help raise up the disadvantaged, and not merely further enrich the rich. Otherwise continuing poverty and inequality will become socially disruptive and politically dangerous. The nation must find a way to share the fruits of development more equitably and to curtail corruption - without which the consequences could be catastrophic. The events in the Middle East and North Africa have not gone unnoticed in this part of our world and other rapidly emerging economies. As such the lessons taken from the above is that the government has to become more responsive to the people's needs.

Talking on enhanced national harmony and unity, Malaysia is

somewhat unique in that underneath every one of its successful policies, the foundation has always been racial harmony. It is multiracial in a way true of few societies outside Africa. In the years of it coming into being as an independent nation, the various societies were aware of the need to unite in pursuing nation-building.

Unity and harmony should be preserved with a sense of responsibility as it is the yardstick of well-being and prosperity of the country's pluralistic society. A key aspect in achieving national reconciliation is to propel the government into creating policies that are inclusive of all races. Policies must have a spirit of inclusiveness and the people have the duty to protect the minorities. This would allow every citizen to have a sense of belonging in this country.

Policies should be implemented based on people's needs and initiatives should focus on the development of the country as a whole. It is important to ensure that children go through the socialization evolution and form a nation that is stronger and united. Malaysia is a multi-religious, multicultural and multiracial country which has become a source of reference and a model of a pluralistic society to the world.

He said our forefathers sacrificed much so that we are free to worship and grow in peace and harmony. In a country blessed with people as



*Participants of
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diverse as her landscape, celebrating our diversity and understanding, respecting and accepting the different ethnicities and creeds, have become an intrinsic part of our culture. Let us continue to build and grow together as Malaysians, guided as ever, by the principles of the Rukun Negara.

Integrity is just not only about corruption. Integrity is a concept of consistency of actions, values, methods, measures, principles, expectations and outcomes. In ethics, integrity is regarded as the honesty, truthfulness or accuracy of one's actions. It is adherence to moral and ethical principles and soundness of moral character. When society matures and stands up against all forms of wrongdoing and demands good governance that will be the day that Malaysia's ranking in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index will rise. If we continue to nit-pick and ignore the bigger picture, the reverse will happen.

Fighting corruption is the most important jihad or struggle for any government of integrity. The reliability level of government institutions in the public's eyes depends very much on how the government and civil servants can avoid corrupt practices and abuse of power. In a functioning democracy, the actions of the government and civil servants are always under scrutiny. Therefore it is equally important to have leaders with morals and effective laws to fight corruption. Our focus should be in creating a culture of integrity in the society where people would openly shun corruption at all times. A society devoid of corruption will definitely result in a nation that is more resilient.

At the end of the speech, he concluded that Nation-building is a process rather than an outcome. Where there is no trust, trust has to be built. Where there is no co-operative network, one has to be established. Building on layers of foundation is the only way to ensure that the process is solid and sustainable. The failure to achieve full safety is inevitable; the failure to strive to be safer, to learn from the past, is inexcusable.

The second speaker, Prof. Dr Mansor Mohd Nor started his speech by re-addressing the concept of national resilience. National resilience has the capability to: a) adapt to changing contexts; b) withstand sudden shocks; c) and to recover a desired equilibrium, either the previous one or a new one, while preserving the continuity of its operation. All the

three elements encompass both recoverability (the ability for speedy recovery) and adaptability (timely adaptation in response to a changing environment).

National resilience relates to human beings and man is a social being. Men interact with other men to develop social ties, social relations, social relationship and society. Thus a family, community, a society, a country and the world is a social system. A country thus comprise of smaller social systems that are a part of a larger social system. The resilience of a country is affected by these small social systems and the larger social systems. As man is a social being, we do not live alone; we form groups, institutions and live in various sub-systems. All the subsystems are bonded each other to form a larger subsystem that together forms a global system. It is important to understand that we maybe a person yet associated to so many sub-systems. In order to be conscious of international resilience, he emphasized that we need to see beyond ourselves.



*Prof Dr Mansor
Mohd Nor as second
speaker of Session 3*

According to Prof Dr Mansor Mohd Nor, the concept of social resilience comprised of 5 subsystems: governance, economics, infrastructure, environmental and social. The mode for integrating the social resilience involved monitoring-based on data collection and research, modality-

mechanism to isolate crises, redundancy of critical infrastructure, diversity of solution and strategy, adaptive decision making models, alternative plan of action, capacity for self regulation, creativity and innovation, effective communication, inclusive participation, active horizon planning and responsive regulatory feedback.

National resilience and nation-building are related to each other. Building a nation-state or empire or civilization is to manage the central questions of solidarity and scarcity of resources in the society and nation. Failure to manage the solidarity and scarcity may limit us from going further because without the solidarity, there will be no peace and stability. While, failure to manage scarcity may also limit us even when we have resources, or when resources are not properly utilized or when we have no resources or we are unable to find them. Managing resources is the deed of state-building; development, social mobility, quality of life etc. It can be measured.

Managing solidarity is nation-building, building social ties, social alignment and social bonding that cut across ethnic and religious groups that bond them to a national ethos instilling a sense of belongingness, loyalty and patriotism toward the nation. It cannot be measured but monitored. Without solidarity there could be no social and political stability. Without social and political stability progress will be hard to be attained.

Looking at Malaysia as a case study, the national ethos, patriotism and loyalty to the nation does not come with birth certificates or identification cards. It has to come naturally. According to him, a nation usually comprises of 4 elements: territory, constitution, citizen and loyalty. There are 3 categories of nation: nation-state, state without nation and nation without state. The common perennial problem of the nation involved national unity, social cohesion, national reconciliation, political reconciliation and national integration.

As Malaysia is a multi-ethnic country, sometimes it has an oft description of ethnic relations in Malaysia. Our nation has been portrayed in such negative terms especially by the local people. Negative interpretation which is competitive, creates a cause for tension and conflict among ethnic groups and the discourse is often of a cause for a conflict prone situation. Social reality thus is positive which is despite

diversity, stability and progress are the basic ingredients of life and violence is never an option. The good ethnic relations ticks as social cohesion prevails in the society. This was supported by a study that was conducted by the speaker himself to determine the ethnic diversity that showed stability and progress is the basic ingredient of life in Malaysia and violence is never an option. The study also indicated that good cohesion prevails in Malaysia and can really strengthen the nation.

The development, social change and social transformation in Malaysia can be seen from 1970s where our nation lived in poverty and inequality, later in 1980s to 1990s, the development, industrialisation and migration slowly built up and by 2000s, the urbanisation and middle classes then took place. Malaysia is moving towards being a developed nation. It is clearly shown that we have moved from a plural society, multiethnic nation to a socially differentiated nation with an indigenous civilization collectively aspire for justice through freedom of speech, assembly, information and inclusiveness.

Based on Malaysia's success story: Good Governance, the social changes and social transformation of the nation can be seen in the development, modernisation, migration and technology which changes from an agricultural nation to a commercial industrial nation,



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from poverty to middle classes, from rural idyllic to urbanisation and cosmopolitan culture, end products are the converging and sharing of norms among the diverse ethnics groups, over dominance of social sphere in life over ethnic choice and prevalence of cross cutting ties and group relationship that transcend ethnic dimensions.

Patterns of social relations in Malaysia can be seen in ethnic groups where a social psychology process that binds individuals of the same social characteristic, universalistic norms that are bounded by status and personal obligations. Ethnic dimensions for personal ends, the nation of intent which is defining the nation and ethno religious extremism putting a particularistic criteria above the nation.

The hot period can happen in the event such as during election where people were manipulating facts and ethnicity to win, during the economic crisis when steps taken were alleged to have failed to be inclusive, introduction of new government policy by politicising of national agenda for political and ethnic interests, developments failures in managing social inequality and social mobility and lastly bad governance due to poor performance that leads to crime, social problems, corruption and abuse of power.

In order to support the national agenda, few steps should be considered such as social inequality must be managed, development and governance must be democratic, integrity, justice and inclusive, social mobility and quality of life must be guaranteed, public policy and program must manage the rich and power as well as protect the poor and voiceless, managing cultural, religious sensitivities, ethnic blurring must be aimed in the media and the political arena and ethno-cultural-religious extremism must not be condoned and isolated from public affairs.

In building social resilience, the action plan that need to be taken will involve public policy, programme and institution. As for a National Social Policy, it involves the changing social structure of the nation by income, group, migration, ethnic, age, gender, urban, regional and the family demanding new thinking. Pressing social welfare action should 'adopt' children of broken families. Social institutes of Malaysia needs to function beyond welfare. Under the Department of National Unity and National Welfare, Rukun Tetangga needs to be broadened to include workplace, businesses and sports. As for the National Political Development Policy,

the practices of good democracy and aspired to public dialogues and discussions need to be a political culture. For the National Development Plan, a culture of long term planning must be based on needs, justice and inclusiveness. For lower income group, rural development must focus on food production and managing small and fragmentary land sizes. For the National Unity Consultative Council, the mechanism of bargaining and negotiation must be institutionalised. The print and electronic media needs to be scientific and ethnical in their reporting. In Malaysia's Education Blueprint 2013-2025, it is important to strengthen the national schools by teaching "mother tongue" languages and culture, target the implementation of a single session school, social study to be taught in school, and education should be above politics and association. Lastly for the Federal Constitution, it involves the recognition of the Constitution and Rukunegara and also due recognition for the indigenous should be accorded to all such as Siamese, Baba Nyonya, Portuguese, Chettiar, Peranakan, etc.

The speaker ended his speech by addressing the keywords: unity is not uniformity, the nurturing of ethnics and national ethos, managing justice and social equality, bargaining and negotiation by elite and public discourse to attain accommodation, compromises, convergence, shared norms and consensus. The ethnic differences are not the cause for social fragility but it is being mobilised for the prevalence of social differences in society that we failed to notice and manage.

Dato' Azman Amin bin Hassan, as the last speaker started his speech by pointing that Malaysians are blessed with a very peaceful country. Since independence, Malaysia has faced many challenges in building the country and nation and many efforts have been made by the Government in maintaining and transforming the political system, democracy and public policies. Lately, there were many incidents which may put the country in jeopardy such as the separatist movements in Southern Thailand; air pollution caused by haze in Indonesia, the influx of illegal immigrants while the list goes on. With all those threats around it will impact on all Malaysians and he aired his concern on the preparedness or initiatives that have been taken to bolster resilience to the above threats.

He touched on the concept of national resilience and the Government's effort to reduce the risk from emergencies so that people

are prepared and confident to deal with major emergencies, like natural disasters, financial crisis or terror attacks. In building these capabilities, JPNIN through its function also aims to create awareness to help those people in need irrespective of ethnicity, religion and their background. Thus he found that the people need to be reminded from time to time to avoid violence and to live happily.

*Dato' Azman Amin
bin Hassan as third
speaker for
Session 3*



He also highlighted JPNIN's role in enhancing security through the building of capability programs for the community which is done to identify strategies to bolster resilience, to acknowledge challenges and find solutions and to strengthen the functions of the department. In the context of unity, JPNIN functions are; creating harmony, educate the public on solidarity, maintain and improve race relations, conduct studies to determine the level and race relations climate, provide ideas to the government for national stands particularly under the United Nation Human Rights Council for Racism and Racial Discrimination (UNHRC) and recommend comprehensive and holistic measures in managing national unity and national integration.

The process towards attaining unity involves the cohesion and reconciliation of peoples to achieve unity. It is like a storm in a tea cup. As we can observe that after the 13th General Election, Malaysia has changed in terms of its political and social landscape of the country.

As such he explained that in managing Malaysia's vast diversities, Malaysia faced some heavy challenges such as national reconciliation, religious misunderstanding, polarization, good governance, the state and federal relationship, as well as human rights issues. The objectives of strengthening the delivery mechanism and managing the diverse community issues are done in order to bolster the resilience of the community and to ensure that peace and harmony prevails in Malaysia. JPNIN's agenda towards building capabilities comprised of five components: national vigilance, solidarity and unity of the community, public vigilance, economic fortitude and psychological resilience as its efforts create and establish citizens who have the full spirit of patriotism and nationalism.

In ensuring and building capabilities, JPNIN has launched numerous programmes such as the "Sayangi Komuniti" program that pioneered housing schemes like PPR to involve residents towards "loving their neighbourhood". Apart from assisting the residents in income generating programs, this top notch activity tries to create awareness among the residents to mutually look after the safety and security of their own residential area. The program also encouraged residents to interact and allow each other access to information and together to contribute to the betterment of others and at the same time creating an environment that promotes peace and harmony.

In strengthening Unity, the *Rukun Tetangga* Program, introduced in 1975 will continue to be enhanced and strengthened in order to remain relevant in the current situation. Transformation of Rukun Tetangga undertaken by JPNIN will focus on community development, to produce quality leadership that is ready to shoulder responsibility to develop and prosper their community. The momentum for change has been initiated through the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and high impact programs which aim towards creating a prosperous and cohesive society. Whilst strengthening the social net, initiatives have been taken to strengthen JPNIN social network with the stakeholders and other external

parties (private / university / NGO etc.) via “smart-partnership” that seeks to gain expertise and services. Through this initiative, the community members will derive more benefits to maximize their capability.

However, Dato’ Azman Amin added that the well being of society will not be achieved if people are constantly in conflict. Any conflict that takes place between individuals, families, communities and government if prolonged is naturally unhealthy. For Peace Building Education, JPNIN has taken the initiative to set up Community Mediators in most of *Rukun Tetangga* areas to play roles as a middleman or mediator to find peace among people in conflict especially on neighbourhood issues. As of 31 December, 2012, a total of 874 community mediators have been trained and certified to assist JPNIN to solve neighbourhood issues and problems that may occur in order that society’s welfare is always preserved. This program has significantly reduced the number of quarrels from 1522 cases in 2008 to 949 cases in 2012.

Participants of
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Meanwhile he explained that in managing the information system, the e-RT system was introduced to assist JPNIN in determining the expansion of *Rukun Tetangga* areas throughout the country as a platform for establishing a cohesive community. The e-SRS system assists JPNIN to establish the Voluntary Patrolling Scheme throughout the country in order to create an area of peace and security in the neighbourhood. JPNIN has been in collaboration with Police and ATM under the NBOS program since early 2011. Another system developed is e-Sepakat, a system to monitor the climate of unity in the country through the manifestation approach (violence, riots, demonstrations, protests, fights, assaults and issues) and to produce a Societal Stress Index as an outcome. The development of those systems will require JPNIN officers to always be on alert of the security level in the country and the safety level of the people, in order to take necessary steps to ensure the people live harmoniously and peacefully.

He added that the people in Sabah, Labuan and Sarawak have never been marginalized in the development aspect. The principle of social justice under the 1Malaysia initiative is to ensure that all Malaysians benefit from government programs. Thus, JPNIN on promoting National Integration provides opportunity for leaders of the diverse communities from the Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan to visit and learn the unique culture of the Malaysian diversity so as to be proud of being a Malaysian living in Malaysia. This trip will be an eye-opener to look at the success achieved and to give participants the opportunity to feel at home whether they are in Peninsular, Sabah, Sarawak or Labuan.

Apart from that, JPNIN also introduced the Religious Harmony Programme, taking into account leaders involvement, inter-religious cooperation, public-religious bodies' partnership and community cooperation. The committee for the promotion of inter-religious understanding and harmony among religious adherents are; Working Committee on Issues among Adherents, Working Committee on Joint Activities, Working Committee on Mediation among Adherents and Working Committee on Joint Events with Government & Community Leaders.

The National Unity Consultative Council consists of Legislation & Unity Policies, Nation Building & Cross Cultural Building, Inclusive Development, Youth & Unity and National Integration. The success of managing

cohesion towards achieving national unity has been measured by using the Societal Stress Index that showed that the climate of unity is stable and under control. The Societal Relation Index also found that the trend of interactions among participants in programs organized is at an acceptable level and a clear sign of strong bonding and interaction towards national integration.

At the end of his speech, Dato' Azman Amin conclude stressing that everybody knows that Malaysia is a multi-racial country. Malaysia has many ethnic groups of various religious, language and cultural backgrounds. However, Malaysians must always strive to survive as one peaceful nation. It is significant to note that whatever conflict of contestation that has happened, it had always been balanced by negotiation, consensus and compromise. The challenges that Malaysia had and is already facing has brought an experience for Malaysia in order to maintain the stability and prosperity of the state and nation. It is a wonderful experience and is not a step backward instead it is making and preparing the country to be more prosperous in the future.

*Question by Tan Sri
Abdul Aziz bin Jaafar
(Chief of Navy)*

The moderator then proceeded with the question and answer session.



Gen. Dato' Nordin (Retired), raised 3 questions related to the field of the IGP's responsibility. As of today gangsterism has become common in our nation and the police face a hard time to combat these crimes. He argued that the rise of gangsterism was mainly due to influence from the Tamil and Malay films of that genre. The films made gangsterism look glamorous to be a gangster as the gangster is portrayed to be helping people in need. Such movies make the young people feel that being a gangster is a good career for them today. He suggested that there is a need to do something about this. Next, he asked about the condition why people that travel to Sarawak still need to bring their passports even though those who travel there are Malaysians and married with Sarawakians. But it does not apply to people from Sarawak when they come to peninsular Malaysia. Talking about national integrity, why must the country have the two systems? On the question of gangsterism, IGP Tan Sri Khalid answered that gangsterism has been rising due to the abolishment of Emergency Ordinance. He added that currently, the introduction of PCE seems effective in containing such gangster activities. Once the PCE has been gazetted, it can be a better way to control gangsterism. The issue of national integrity and nationality was answered by Prof. Dr Mansor saying that we have government policies that are in place and that all the activities in schools must aim at nation building.

The last question came from Tan Sri Abdul Aziz bin Jaafar (Chief of Navy). He questioned the possibility of building unity in Malaysia when there are many types of schools. This question was answered by Prof. Dr Mansor who believed that the national school is the best way to inculcate nation building. The need for the establishment of one single school as a place to build the spirit of nation building is undeniable. However, we have to follow the policies of integration rather than assimilation. In Malaysia, we practice integration in the sense that we respect the differences. Then we embedded it in the constitution. At the national level, the Chinese primary schools in Sarawak not only consist of Chinese, but also have Malay, India, Kadazan and Dusun. It is actually the national agenda. And he added that 80% of students from Chinese schools will enter the national type school as they move to Form 1 and the same goes to Tamil schools. This was supported by Prof Mansor's study that indicated differences in language is not a barrier. The central thrust is not language, but how we develop our country and how we manage social differences. ■



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Chapter 5

Closing Address
MiDAS Conference 2013

THE HONOURABLE
Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussien
Minister of Defence

Closing Address

MiDAS Conference 2013

The Honourable Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Defence Minister of Malaysia delivered the closing address of the conference. Following is an extract of his speech.



At the onset of his delivery the honourable Minister of Defence Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein expressed his gratitude and praised Allah for being given the opportunity to attend the MIDAS Conference. He congratulated MiDAS for successfully organizing the conference. The rightly chosen theme: *Strengthening National Resilience* is one issue that needs to be discussed openly since the Nation is at a crossroad. He also took the opportunity to congratulate all those involved in the conference.

The conference was regarded as timely and imperative to provide some directions and consensus on navigating the uncertain landscape of the Nation.

According to him, the unstable and borderless world landscape (which has been seen as a global village) comes with challenges that require us to navigate the waters together, at the time when the country has to face and make an important decision to ensure that future generation of Malaysian move forward and take their place in this global village. The situation requires us to do some evaluation and assessment (*muhasabah* which means looking into it) to ensure that our nation is well prepared to face the future challenges.

According to him, “from all the 3 sessions, it was clearly indicated that we are at a crossroad. It means that we face complex and difficult issues and challenges as we move forward. Many will question what exactly it has got to do with MINDEF and ATM when we talk about strengthening the national resilience. The Deputy Prime Minister during his opening speech said that the military is an important component in nation building and not only seen as those that will help the nation to secure defences, security and stability in the future”.

He added that in order to strengthen national resilience, we need the participation of all Malaysians regardless ethnicity. We need to walk together and think out of the box. We do not want what is happening in Syria to occur in Malaysia. Today he observed, the so called “peaceful assembly” demanding changes for the sake of change, turns into chaos. At the end of the day, the military and police has to take over to stabilize the situation.

Everyone in the nation is responsible to take up the challenge to build up national resilience. It is a joint responsibility in which everyone has to take part. It is not just for the politicians or the ministers or the teachers alone to take up the responsibilities to make sure that we are resilient. The value system involves all of us and will guide us because we are all leaders in our own circle. How we deal with certain issues at different times may be different. However, it is always for the bigger picture that we come to certain actions and conclusions.

He identified that poverty was the main cause of the Lahad Datu’s incident. Poverty has made it easy for people to be exploited. When the

incident happened we had no opportunity to explain. If we did not manage it properly, the situation might have worsened and has dire consequences. History will judge us well if we are consistent and we do what we preach and we make decisions without fear or favour with the bigger agenda in mind. We should be able to depend on the national institutions such as the Armed Forces and the Police Force as the pillars that hold our nation to build up human resilience.

It is important to look forward in order to build up national resilience. The resilience that we have today not only in the context of national perspective, but, we should be resilient to many other aspects such as in natural disaster, education, government and politics, in the region and internationally. Malaysia can be a good example to show leadership because we do have resilience in the form of strength in diversity. We should not look at the divide but to look at our inclusiveness and to raise our comfort zone to a higher level and move forward notwithstanding our differences.

Besides, he said that issues of security and defence are interchangeable. Thinking out of the box, the armed forces and the police force can, for instance, at initial stage, work together jointly to combat street crimes. It is not impossible if we can raise our comfort zone to a higher level notwithstanding our differences, to look at the bigger picture. This has been proven in the case of Lahad Datu' because we spoke the same language in the context of defending the sovereignty.

In 2015, Malaysia will be the leader of ASEAN Chair after Myanmar. Malaysia is also going to be given a seat at the Security Council. It is important to show the methods and approaches that we have been practicing all this while, for example the transformation programme, blue ocean strategy and other fantastic, amazing and extraordinary examples unimaginable by the others, so that we would be able to show others how we manage our nation well and would soon be able to lead others. At the end of his speech, he emphasized that we have to be resilient and consistent to avoid being collateral. He subsequently officially closed the MiDAS Conference 2013. ■



*Lt Gen Dato' Dr
William Stevenson
MiDAS Chief
Executive presenting
a memento to the
Honourable Dato'
Seri Hishammuddin
Tun Hussein,
Defence Minister of
Malaysia*



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Chapter 6

Resolutions
MiDAS Conference 2013

Ministry of Defence

MIDAS CONFERENCE 2013

RESOLUTIONS

The 2nd MiDAS Conference 2013 was held on 28 November 2013 at Istana Hotel Kuala Lumpur with a very significant and relevant theme of 'Strengthening National Resilience'. This is in cognisance and moving on from the previous theme of *"Reinforcing National Defence and Security: A Revisit"*.

It is acknowledged that Malaysia is currently at the crossroads in her quest to be a fully developed nation by the year 2020. As the nation approaches her final lap towards this goal, there are intermittent challenges which will need the concerted efforts from all Malaysians and above all the resilience which will overcome these challenges. The security uncertainties coming from both the traditional and non-traditional threats will pose a major test in Malaysia's resolve and vigilance. Adding to that is the economic uncertainties as well as disasters which may hinder the progress and wellbeing of the nation and her people.

In view of the uncertain and volatile global economic, political and security scenarios, Malaysia acknowledges the peace and stability it had enjoyed since her formative years. Despite the numerous security challenges and sporadic domestic problems over the past decades, Malaysia was able to overcome these challenges with the combined efforts of the security forces and her people. It must be stressed that through past experiences, security and development goes hand in hand and as such must be at the forefront of the nation's defence and policy orientations.

The MiDAS Conference 2013 was graced by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Hj Yassin with his Keynote: National Resilience Towards A Developed Nation. It was followed by three sessions which are *Strengthening National Resilience: The Malaysian Identity*; *National Resilience: Responding to Crisis* and finally *Enhancing Security through National Resilience*. Based on the discussions, the MiDAS Conference 2013 recommended the following:

- i. The Malaysian Identity is not only one of a resolute character, but who accepts and embraces each other regardless of creed and colour. Parents and educators should impart the importance of practicing tolerance in matters of religion, culture, racial and political orientation to the younger generation. The newly formed National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) could undertake this proposal and further work on ways on how the combined integration of parents and educators can engage the younger generation in order to inculcate values and mental resilience that should be distinctive in every Malaysian.
- ii. National unity is vital in creating a harmonious and productive population that will come together in times of need and adversity without fear or favour. Malaysians should always be reminded and adhere by the Malaysian Constitution, Rukunegara and respect the Constitutional Monarchy as the pillars of national integration. These need the combined efforts from all levels of society, government agencies and private institutions. The importance of history and knowing as well as acknowledging the cultural beliefs of each race will go a long way in forging better understanding and in this way avoid racial tensions and clashes.
- iii. To accept the richness and diversity of the Malaysian society and acknowledge it as our strengths. We must be able to utilise and nurture these strengths towards the development and continued stability of the country. This process starts from early education and is an on-going process.
- iv. To instil, inculcate and improve the teaching profession with the qualities and standing like in the days of yore in order to bring back the prestige in this noble profession. This will enable them to inspire, guide and build the foundation of our younger generation for them to have the necessary resilience and mental resolute to face the future challenges together.
- v. As security and development are vital components in the progress of the nation, the Malaysian Armed Forces and the Royal Malaysian Police must continue and be part of the important components in nation building. Both organisations should work cohesively with innovative approaches to keep and maintain

the security, stability as well as the wellbeing of each and every Malaysian. The private sectors, civilian organisations and general public must be part of the simulation exercises organised by both uniformed bodies in order to be effective in the event of a disaster or crises. Constant reviewing of the NSC directives on security matters and disaster relief must be made.

- vi. Addressing resilience issues domestically especially in matters related to disaster and emergency responses. Resilience should be extended and adopted at all levels of society when faced with a crisis.
- vii. As the nominated ASEAN chair in 2015, Malaysia should promote regional cooperation and resilience as the central pillar of her foreign policy orientation.
- viii. To look at security, defence and enforcement agencies as interchangeable components that should integrate and complement their efforts.
- ix. To remain vigilant of the spill over effect of global conflicts and economic uncertainties that could influence the stability of the nation. This could be done by constantly reviewing existing policies and implementing stringent measures to face adversities.
- x. Remind all agencies, public organisations and all walks of society that the defence of the nation is the responsibility of all. The concept of Total Defence must be constantly revisited and reviewed. The ability to garner the support of every levels of society is important in any crisis to strengthen the resilience of the nation as a whole.
- xi. MiDAS to continue bringing together and engaging all relevant sectors in addressing and discussing national defence and security issues periodically.

*Press conference
by the Honourable
Dato' Seri
Hishammuddin
Tun Hussein,
Defence Minister
of Malaysia,
accompanied by
Gen Tan Sri Dato
Seri (Dr.) Zulkifeli
Mohd Zin, Chief
of Defence Force
Malaysia and Dato'
Mohamad Khalil
Hj. Sharif, Deputy
Secretary General
Ministry of Defence*





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Chapter 7

Photo Gallery













