

# MANIFESTO

# RAKYAT

gbm CSO  
Gabungan Bertindak Malaysia PLATFORM FOR REFORM  
manifestorakyat2021.org

## "Peoples' Voices, Peoples' Manifesto"

**Pillar 1:**  
Unity in Diversity/  
Bangsa Malaysia

**Pillar 2:**  
Promote, Improve &  
Defend Civil Rights &  
Liberties

**Pillar 3:**  
Towards a Just,  
Equitable &  
Democratic Society

### Cultural Identity & Religious Harmony (1A&1B)



A nation united in diversity, with an inclusive national identity that upholds constitutional supremacy, respects human dignity and fairness, encourages preservation of traditional cultures and languages, fosters education for a democratic citizenship and empowers weaker sections of the population.

### Freedom of Expression (2A)



An immediate moratorium on the use of repressive laws to restrict freedom of expression against human rights defenders, media, artistic expression and ordinary citizens. Repeal or reform all repressive laws and harmonise the legal framework with international human rights standards.

### Human Rights (2B)



An institutional framework that recognises the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of the Rakyat, safeguards human rights and establishes accountability of government leaders wielding public power in accordance with human rights standards and principles.

### Women (2C)



Opportunities for women empowerment through legislative and constitutional reform to address gender equality in the public and private spheres, in economic participation, health and survival, and political empowerment.

### Youth (2D)



An enabling environment for Malaysian youth to achieve greater political representation, including educational reforms to raise their political awareness and to equip them with an understanding of politics and the political process. Abolish the UUCA and set age-related quota in parliamentary-elected representatives as part of a systematic ground for youth political rights.

### Child (2E)



Guarantee children's rights and protection by: establishing a national interagency child protection system with a competent workforce and child-friendly services; strengthening the national education and healthcare systems; institutionalising children's participation and child safeguarding; ensuring birth registration, citizenship and inclusivity of marginalised children; and educating parents, families and communities through adequate resource mobilisation.

### Persons with Disabilities (2F)



Systematic efforts to ensure PWDs enjoy equality of opportunity and to prevent and reduce all forms of discrimination, including in employment matters. Harmonise domestic legislation with the CRPD. Set up a task force to amend the Federal Constitution to prohibit discrimination against PWDs and reform the PWD Act 2008. Establish an independent disability commission.

### Indigenous Peoples (2G1)



Official recognition of the indigenous people's customary land. Stop encroaching their land for economic activities. Put a moratorium on all projects on their lands. Implement the UNDRIP, including the Free and Transparent Preliminary Information Permit. Involve the indigenous people in the development of their land through informed and participatory decision making. Respect their right to freedom of religion.

### Migrant Workers (2G2)



A comprehensive national policy on labour migration to regulate all aspects of labour migration, from recruitment to labour placement. Ensure rights to decent work, access to affordable health, as well as access to justice to punish labour violations. Ratify all basic conventions on migrant work and workers by the ILO and the UN.

### Undocumented Persons (2G3)



Recognition of the fundamental rights of the undocumented. The Government should accept and implement the High Court judgement granting Malaysian women equal rights to confer automatic citizenship on their overseas-born children, and amend the gender-discriminatory nationality law and Federal Constitution towards that end. Facilitate the integration and admission of stateless, undocumented and displaced children into the national education system.

### Refugees & Asylum Seekers (2G4)



A comprehensive legal and policy framework for refugees. Afford refugees and asylum seekers protection instead of detaining them arbitrarily. Immediately grant UNHCR access into immigration detention centres. Uphold refugees' access to healthcare, work, education and justice to enable them to have dignified standards and rebuild their lives in Malaysia.

### Gender (2G5)



Elimination of discrimination towards gender and sexual minorities. Stop all prosecution of LGBTIQ+ persons based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Engage SUHAKAM and LGBTIQ+ human rights groups to address the systemic criminalisation and of LGBTIQ+ persons. Amend the Federal Constitution to ensure Malaysian women, like their male counterparts, can confer citizenship by operation of law on their children born overseas.

### Sabah (2H1)



The pressing issues are the legal status of the Bajau Laut and rights of the people born in Sabah, as well as indigenous education. Amend the immigration law to protect stateless and undocumented children. Increase inclusivity of indigenous culture and flexibility in the education system based on local needs.

### Sarawak (2H2)



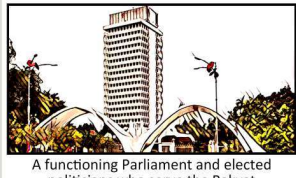
Sustainable forestry, enfranchised non-resident Sarawakians and empowered PWDs. Enforce the Forests Ordinance 2015 on illegal loggers and impose the maximum penalty. Introduce postal/absentee voting for the people of Sarawak who are living overseas. Improve the lives of PWDs through better representation, accessibility to public amenities and access to education and employment.

### Electoral Reform (3A)



A strong democracy based on the one-person, one-vote, one-value principle. Change the electoral system to a Closed List Proportional Representation. Set up a seat-based direct funding for political parties that field winnable women candidates. Enact a law based on anti-party hopping and recall election considerations. Form a boundaries commission. Free the Election Commission from Executive influence.

### Parliamentary Reform (3B)



A functioning Parliament and elected politicians who serve the Rakyat effectively. Widen the scope of parliamentary select committees to include the power to appoint heads of key public institutions. Set up an Ombudsman Office. Institute reforms for an equitable constituency development funding. Allocate funds to political parties by percentage of votes won previously.

### Judiciary Reform (3C)



An impartial and independent judiciary to check against administrative and legislative excesses. Enlarge the Judicial Appointments Commission to include other stakeholders in the administration of justice, constitutionally entrench its role in the judicial selection process, remove political involvement, and protect, preserve and promote judicial independence.

### Anti-Corruption (3D)



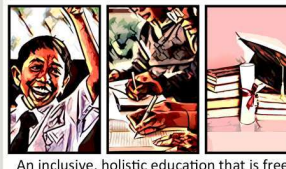
A multi-faceted response to deter corruption: strengthen anti-corruption laws and whistle-blower protection; provide income safety nets for B40 households; ensure a free and independent media; and enshrine integrity as a fundamental Malaysian value by first creating a national integrity system with strong mandates to change and strengthen public service delivery systems.

### Economic Justice (3E)



An inclusive Nation based on equality and fairness. Promulgate legislation and establish independent commissions on equal opportunity employment and social inclusion. Provide basic housing and social protection for targeted disadvantaged groups. Recognise bi-national spouses' rights to employment and services.

### Education (3F)



An inclusive, holistic education that is free from partisan politics and religious ideology. Establish a comprehensive, cohesive accountability system. Restore autonomy at state, district and school levels. Abolish the UUCA. Implement multicultural policies and laws that respect and appreciate diversity in culture, language and gender in schools and learning institutions. Reinstate civic and citizenship education in national schools.

### Local Democracy (3G)



A citizenry that participates in creating sustainable communities with quality living conditions that "leave no one behind". Decentralise governance and take steps towards giving more autonomy to the local government and empowering the people to participate in local governance. Institute participatory budgeting. Reinstate local council elections. Improve transparency by freeing information through policy and legislative changes.

### Labour (3H)



Decent work for all. Amend all major labour laws to reflect this goal. Respect the rights of all workers, especially in precarious work such as domestic work. Abolish contract work in public services. Protect local workers' jobs and effectively address forced labour and trafficking.

### Health (3I)



More investment in public health—allocate more than 4% of GDP to the health budget to increase capacity. Improve health workforce sustainability; start by setting up a public health services commission. Strengthen primary healthcare—implement a family doctor system—and commit to inclusive care.

### Environment (3J)



An overarching framework on climate change and multistakeholder engagement to address environmental issues. Essential safeguards include transparency, environmental and human rights impact assessments, sustainable development and natural resource protection.

### Transport (3K)



An efficient, accessible and affordable public transportation, and a departure from car-centric town planning. Decentralise transport planning by devolving it to state governments and regional authorities. Revise the National Transport Policy. Create a national transport funding framework. Embed new urban planning best practices.

### Agriculture (3L)



An agroecological and local approach instead of large-scale, tech-dependent conventional farming, as well as market access and appropriate selling prices of produce so that farmers also achieve a good standard of living. Cease land grabs through coercion or economic offers; maintain agricultural land to ensure the country's food security and farmers' rights to seeds, water, agricultural inputs and land.