



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY

THE NATIONAL UNITY INDEX REPORT 2025

IPNas 2025



**THE NATIONAL UNITY
INDEX REPORT 2025
(IPNas 2025)**



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY

Putrajaya, 2026

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FOREWORD

MINISTER OF NATIONAL UNITY

I would like to express my highest appreciation to all parties involved in the preparation of the National Unity Index Report 2025 (IPNas 2025). IPNas 2025 is an important indicator that reflects the level of harmony, togetherness, and social strength in our country. IPNas is not merely a number or a score, but a barometer of how far Malaysians are able to live together in an environment of mutual understanding, respect, and trust. In an increasingly complex world, the issue of unity cannot be taken lightly. Malaysia's diverse societal landscape demands a data-driven and evidence-based approach to ensure that the policies, programs, and interventions formulated, particularly by the Ministry of National Unity, deliver meaningful impact. Through IPNas, the government can assess the dynamics of Inter-ethnic relations, the level of community involvement, the sentiment of togetherness, as well as public perceptions of institutions and unity-related issues.



This report serves as a crucial foundation for strengthening the National Unity Policy. Furthermore, IPNas 2025 greatly assists the ministry in planning initiatives that are more responsive, inclusive, and effective. In facing current challenges such as the spread of false information, social polarisation, and changes in societal structures, IPNas 2025 provides accurate guidance to ensure that every government action is based on the current needs of the people. I believe that unity cannot be achieved through slogans alone. Unity must be built through continuous effort, deep understanding, and the commitment of the entire community. Therefore, the findings of IPNas will continue to be used to empower programs under the Ministry of National Unity and our strategic partners at all levels.

I urge all parties, whether in the public sector, private sector, civil society organisations, community leaders, or Malaysians at large, to utilize this report to collectively strengthen the bonds of unity that form the foundation of the nation's peace and prosperity. Finally, I hope this report becomes a valuable reference to uphold Malaysia's aspiration as a stable, inclusive, and united country.

YB DATUK AARON AGO DAGANG

Minister of National Unity

FOREWORD

SECRETARY GENERAL MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY

Alhamdulillah, with His permission and blessings, the National Unity Index Report for the year 2025 (IPNas 2025) has been successfully published.

IPNas 2025 is a key instrument that serves as a benchmark indicator for the overall social cohesion of our nation. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the consultation team, Ministry of National Unity Officers, the Department of National Unity and Integration (JPNIN), the National Integration Research and Training Institute (IKLIN), expert partners from universities and government agencies, as well as all parties involved in this research. Your commitment, precision, and professionalism have ensured that IPNas 2025 is published with the highest quality.



IPNas 2025 is designed as a scientific, objective, and comprehensive measure to assess the level of cohesion within Malaysia's diverse society. Supported by robust data and a strong research methodology, this report provides a clear picture of the dynamics of interethnic relations, levels of social trust, willingness to cooperate, and public perceptions of existing policies and programs. As the ministry entrusted with preserving and strengthening national harmony, the IPNas 2025 findings are highly valuable as they enable the ministry to plan and implement evidence-based interventions. A data-driven decision-making approach is crucial to ensure that every unity policy and program is truly responsive to current challenges and the needs of the people. In today's world, which faces threats of extremism and the spread of false information, the IPNas 2025 report reminds us of the importance of strengthening unity through consistent and strategic efforts. Based on these findings, the ministry will continue to improve programs, strengthen nation-building initiatives, and foster more meaningful interactions at the grassroots level.

I hope this report will not only serve as a reference for government policy but also be utilized by researchers, industry players, non-governmental organisations, and society at large to collectively build a stronger, more inclusive, and united Malaysia. In conclusion, let us continue to preserve the harmony that forms the foundation of our nation's strength. May this effort bring great benefits to the people and the future of Malaysia.

DATO' HASLINA BINTI ABDUL HAMID

Secretary General
Ministry of National Unity

FOREWORD

DIRECTOR GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND INTEGRATION



National unity is the core foundation of Malaysia's political stability, socio-economic development, and the well-being of its people.

In the context of a multiethnic nation, empirically measuring the level of unity is crucial to evaluate the effectiveness of government policies, action plans, and strategies in strengthening social cohesion and fostering an inclusive national identity.

I am deeply grateful and pleased with the findings of the National Unity Index Report 2025 (IPNas 2025), which was undertaken as an effort to reinforce indicators of national unity. IPNas 2025 is a comprehensive research project that took 12 months to complete. The research was conducted through the appointment of a consulting firm, UKM Pakarunding Sdn. Bhd., and funded by the Ministry of Economy under the Fifth Rolling Plan (RP5) for the Year 2025. IPNas 2025 aligns with the National Unity Policy (NUP) and the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12MP) priority area of "Strengthening Unity for a Prosperous Nation" and is further detailed in the Mid-Term Review of the 12MP, Chapter 7: Enhancing Unity, Defence, Security and Well-Being, with a target score of 0.7.

Employing both quantitative and qualitative approaches, this research provides a comprehensive picture of the level of unity among Malaysians, successfully achieving the national target with a score of 0.701. This achievement confirms that the continuous efforts made by the government to strengthen unity among the people have been successfully implemented.

I hope the IPNas 2025 findings will continue to serve as a strategic guide based on reliable data to formulate more effective policies and interventions. In doing so, we can further strengthen social cohesion, enhance harmony, and build a peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous Malaysian society.

ZULKIFLI BIN HASHIM

Director General

Department of National Unity and Integration

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Ministry of National Unity extends its highest appreciation and sincere gratitude to all ministries, agencies, and departments involved in the implementation of the National Unity Index Study 2025 (IPNas 2025).

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National Integration Research and Training Institute



**Empirical measurement of
unity is essential for
understanding social
realities and formulating
more precise, evidence-
based policies**



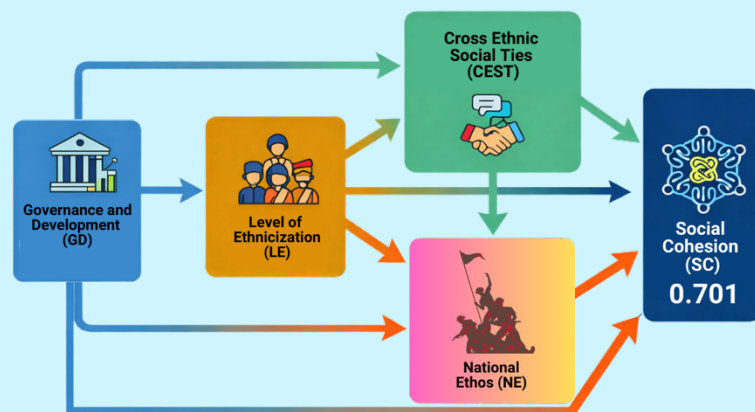
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

National unity is the foundation of Malaysia's stability and progress. In a multi-ethnic society, empirically measuring unity is essential to assess the effectiveness of policies and to understand emerging challenges that influence social relations. Following IPNas 2018 and IPNas 2022, several dimensions, such as inter-ethnic relations and national ethos, have shown improvement. However, challenges remain, including identity-based political polarization, declining inter-ethnic understanding, and shifting perceptions of the government's inclusive policies following COVID-19 and the 15th General Election (GE15).

IPNas 2025 was conducted through survey assessments and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to obtain a comprehensive picture of public perceptions and the state of national unity. The research model evaluates unity through five (5) constructs, comprising Social Cohesion (SC) as the

primary indicator influenced by Governance and Development (GD), Level of Ethnicization (LE), Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST), and National Ethos (NE) as independent factors. The IPNas 2025 national score achieved was 0.701, indicating Malaysia's level of unity is moderate but strengthening, compared to the IPNas 2018 score, with some states recording more positive performance than others.



The research also identified six (6) social deficit issues that require attention due to their significant impact on societal harmony. These issues are ethnicity, media, politics federalism, religion, social class, and education. These factors are interrelated and, if not addressed strategically, can affect public perception, interactions, and confidence in institutions. Pareto analysis indicates that focusing on these critical issues can yield the greatest impact on improving unity.

Overall, IPNas 2025 provides a clear picture of the strengths and weaknesses of the current national unity. The findings can assist the government and stakeholders in designing more precise, data-driven interventions that are responsive to social changes. Efforts to strengthen national unity must go hand in hand with inclusive governance, healthy community interactions, and bridging educational and socio-economic gaps to ensure sustainable national harmony.

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

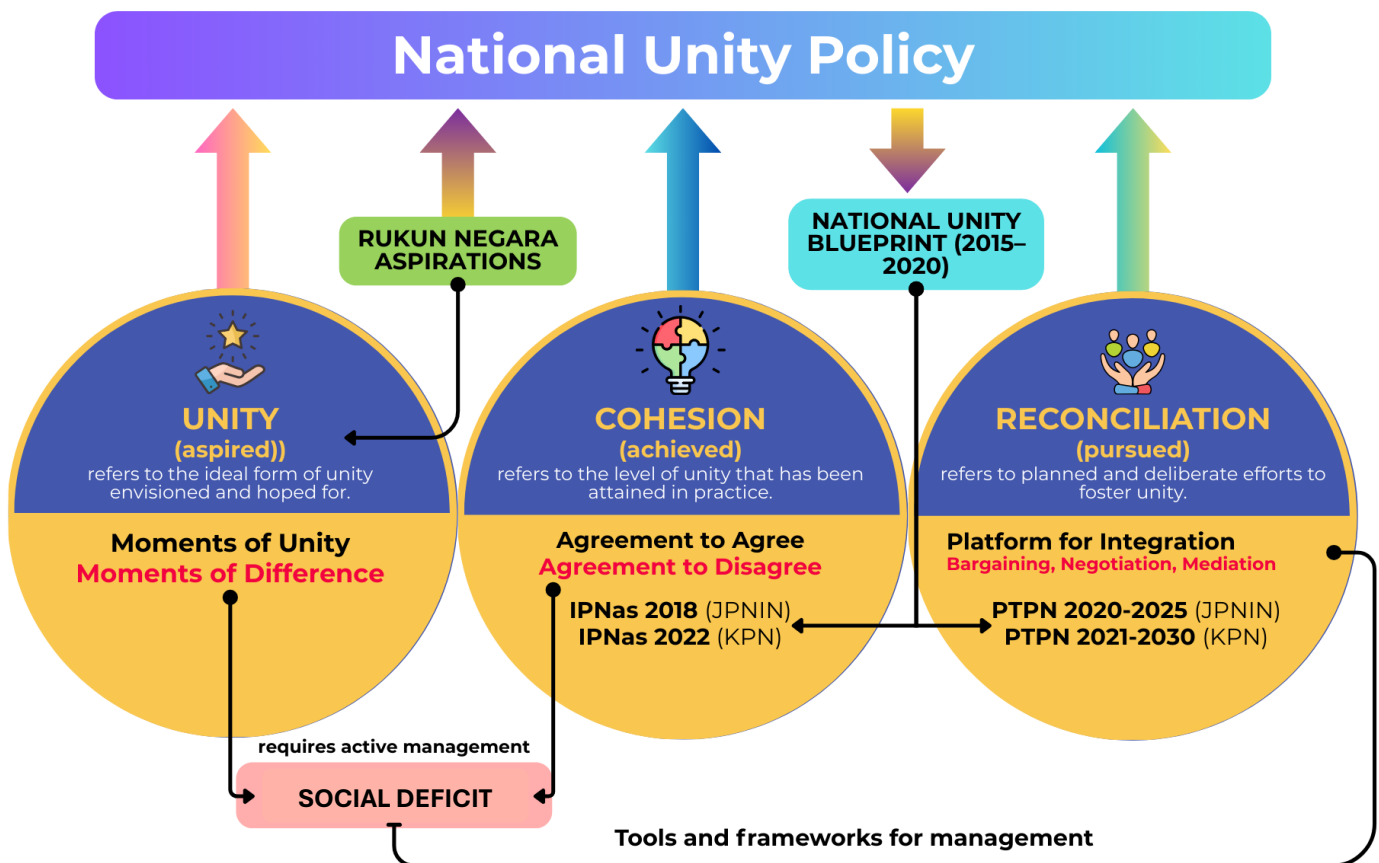
Research Background

The National Unity Index (IPNas) is an analytical tool developed to measure the level of unity among Malaysians. IPNas is based on a conceptual framework encompassing three (3) core principles: **the unity (yet to be achieved), the achieved cohesion, and the reconciliation (work in progress)**. IPNas research was first introduced in 2018 and has since undergone three (3) phases - IPNas 2018, IPNas 2022, and IPNas 2025. This initiative is aligned with the National Unity Policy and the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12MP). It was undertaken to assist the government in formulating appropriate policies and interventions to address issues of social cohesion.

IPNas 2018 recorded a unity index score of 0.567. This score indicates that social cohesion was at a moderate state. Social Cohesion tends to increase when the Cross Ethnic Social Ties, National Ethos, as well as Governance and Development are strengthened. This was evident in IPNas 2022, which recorded an improved score of 0.629. This improvement signalled that national unity was moderate but stable, even as the country faced the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

National unity in Malaysia is a critical foundation in ensuring political stability and social well-being. While the implementation of IPNas 2018 and 2022 demonstrated improvements across several dimensions of unity, the findings also revealed a decline in mutual understanding among ethnic groups.

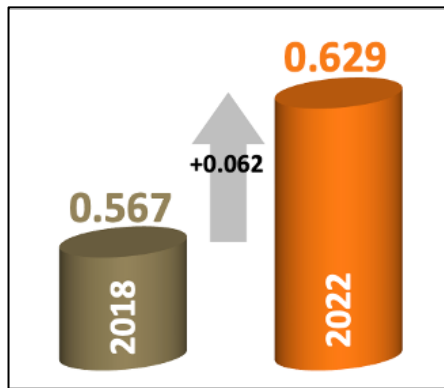
Comprehensive Unity Framework - Updated Understanding



Note: NUAP=National Unity Action Plan

In addition, the rise in political sentiment has become evident, particularly following the 15th General Election and in the post-pandemic era.

**National Unity Index 2018 and 2022
Score and Scale**



LEVEL	SCALE
Weak Unity Level	0.00–0.24
Low Unity Level	0.25–0.49
Moderate Unity Level	0.50–0.74
High Unity Level	0.75–1.00

Note: Comparison of IPNas Scores between 2018 to 2022

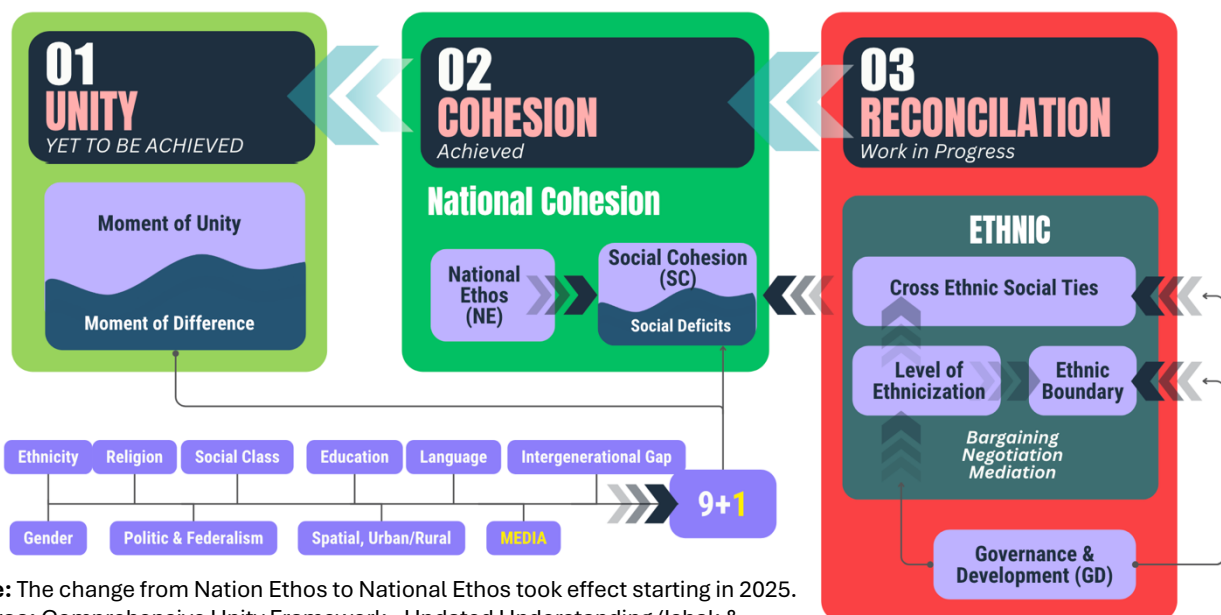
Current challenges, such as the spread of fake news, the rise of hate speech on digital platforms, and the fragmentation of national values have also affected the

level of unity, particularly among the younger generation.

IPNas 2025 places greater emphasis on conducting comparative analysis of unity levels across regions, namely Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak. Its objective is to understand the current dynamics of social cohesion and identify trends in unity levels, so that these insights can serve as a model for strengthening unity efforts at the national level. The research is monitored by the Ministry of National Unity, the National Integration Research and Training Institute, and the Department of National Unity and Integration. It is funded by the Ministry of Economy under the Fifth Rolling Plans of the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12MP).

The IPNas 2025 model is developed based upon five (5) main constructs: Social Cohesion (SC), Governance and Development (GD), Level of Ethnicization (LE), Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST), and National Ethos (NE). GD functions as an independent factor that influences SC both directly and

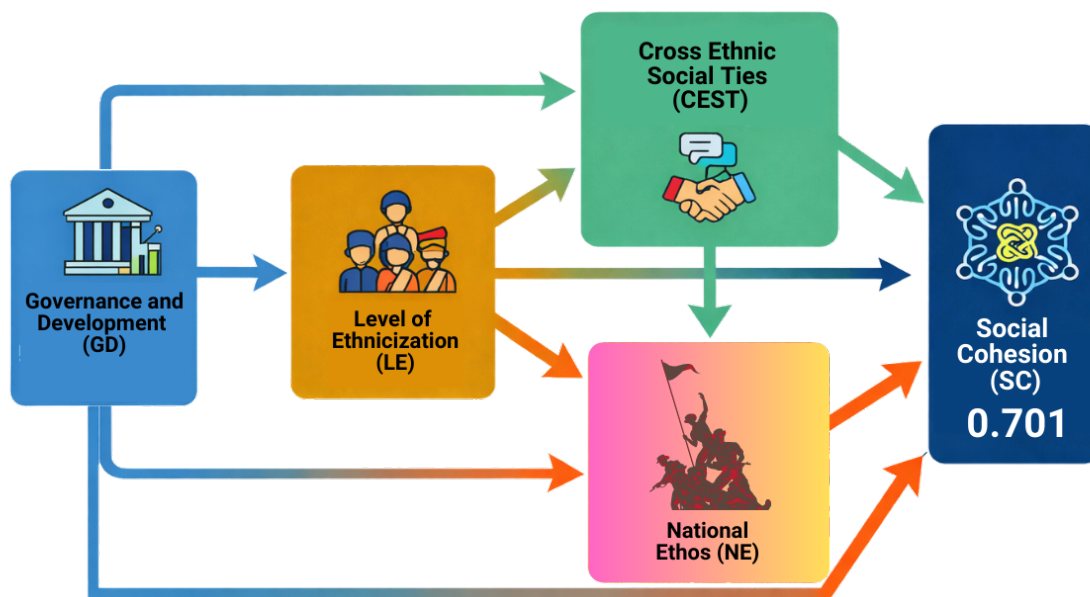
Conceptual Framework of the National Unity Index



Note: The change from Nation Ethos to National Ethos took effect starting in 2025.

Source: Comprehensive Unity Framework - Updated Understanding (Ishak & Baharuddin, 2021)

IPNas Main Constructs



indirectly through LE, CEST, and NE. The structure of this model enables multi-level relationship analysis and provides a scientific foundation for developing clearer, more precise, and more effective unity policies.

Research Objectives

IPNas 2025 is formulated based on three (3) key objectives:

1. To measure the level of unity at the national and state levels based on the improved instruments;
2. To make an overall analysis based on the research findings; and
3. To conduct a comparative analysis according to three (3) regions namely Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak.

Research Importance

IPNas 2025 plays a crucial role as a comprehensive tool for measuring the level of unity among Malaysians based on empirical data. In the context of a complex plural society, the index enables the government and

policymakers to gain deeper insights into the social dynamics that shape inter-ethnic relations, trust in the social system, and national spirit. IPNas 2025 also identifies changes in unity trends over time, thereby serving as a foundation for strengthening and refining national unity policies.

The importance of IPNas 2025 also lies in its ability to assess the effectiveness of various unity policies and programs that have been implemented. These include the Malaysia MADANI approach, the National Unity Policy, and the National Unity Action Plan 2021-2030. With valid and up-to-date data, the government can make more accurate and responsive decisions to address current challenges, particularly those related to racial polarization, the influence of social media, and the evolving dynamics of national values in a plural society. IPNas 2025 further provides an empirical picture of unity levels across regions - Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak - which serves as a critical basis for planning more targeted unity policies and interventions.

Furthermore, IPNas 2025 functions as a key social barometer in addressing the challenges of the digital era and regional geopolitics. It not only evaluates the level of social cohesion but also measures catalytic factors such as Governance and Development, Cross Ethnic Social Ties, and National Ethos. With its scientific and strategic model structure, IPNas 2025 provides a solid foundation for building inclusive, progressive, and future-oriented unity policies that align with the nation's aspiration to create a united and harmonious society.

Strength Components of the Research

IPNas 2025 has been developed as a comprehensive scientific framework to measure the level of unity among Malaysians in an empirical, systematic, and evidence-based manner. This approach builds upon the implementation of IPNas 2018 and IPNas 2022, with improvements in design, indicator framework, and data collection strategies. These enhancements align the measurement with the current context of the post-pandemic era, digital transformation, and the country's evolving political landscape.



The background is a solid blue color with large, abstract, curved shapes in a lighter blue and orange hue. These shapes are layered and overlap, creating a dynamic, modern feel. The orange shapes are primarily in the top-left and bottom-right corners, while the lighter blue shapes are more centrally located.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This research employs a quantitative design using structured survey questionnaires and is complemented by a series of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

Sampling

The IPNas 2025 research adopts a Two-Stage Stratified Random Sampling approach. At the first level, the strata encompass all states in Malaysia, while at the second level, the strata distinguish between urban and rural areas within each state.

IPNas 2025 Sample

State	State Codes	EB Urban	EB Rural	Total
Johor	01	59	15	74
Kedah	02	44	21	65
Kelantan	03	25	29	54
Melaka	04	49	4	53
Negeri Sembilan	05	41	15	56
Pahang	06	31	25	56
Pulau Pinang	07	67	5	72
Perak	08	52	18	70
Perlis	09	30	23	53
Selangor	10	116	4	120
Terengganu	11	36	20	56
Sabah	12	60	47	107
Sarawak	13	62	44	106
W. P. Kuala Lumpur	14	70	-	70
W. P. Labuan	15	47	4	51
W. P. Putrajaya	16	55	-	55
TOTAL		844	274	1,118

The first-stage sampling unit is the Enumeration Block (EB), which is selected separately by state and by urban-rural categories using the

Systematic Random Sampling method. The second-stage sampling unit is the Living Quarters (LQ), chosen from the selected EB also through systematic random sampling. The selection interval is determined to ensure that each LQ has an equal probability of being selected.

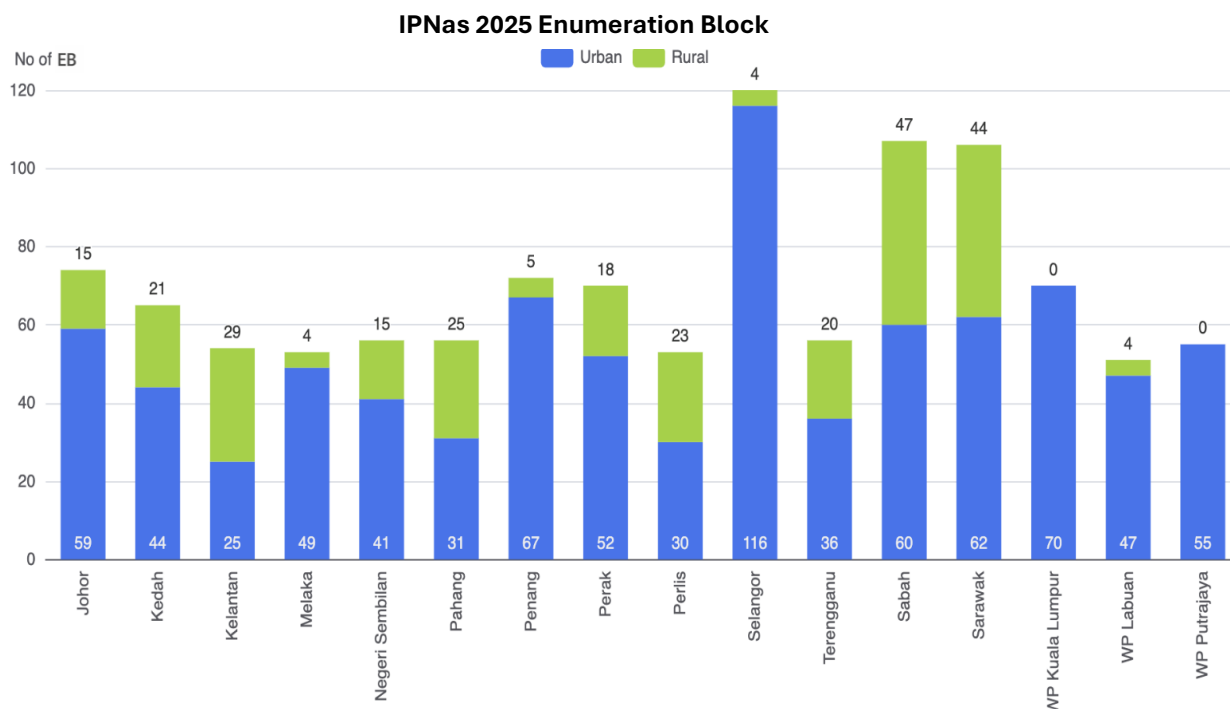
This sampling procedure is carried out with the support of the Department of Statistics Malaysia systematically and scientifically to ensure that the sample obtained is unbiased and comprehensively represents households across the country.

Scope

IPNas 2025 is comprehensive national research that collects primary data to represent the composition of Malaysians across regions, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. The research covers Peninsular Malaysia (Central, Eastern, Northern, and Southern zones), Sabah, and Sarawak, with area selection based on EB and LQ as determined by DOSM.

The respondents consist of Malaysian citizens aged 18 and above. The research encompasses both urban and rural areas to capture differences in social experiences and perceptions of unity.

Two (2) approaches are employed in IPNas 2025: a quantitative approach using structured questionnaires and a qualitative method through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The research focuses on five (5) main constructs: Social Cohesion (SC), National Ethos (NE), Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST), Governance and Development (GD), and Level of Ethnicization (LE). In addition,



social deficits are analysed as a categorical variable.

Overall, the scope of this research enables long-term analysis and comparison with previous IPNas series (2018 and 2022), thereby producing an indicator of national unity that is comprehensive, inclusive, and firmly grounded in reality.

Instrument

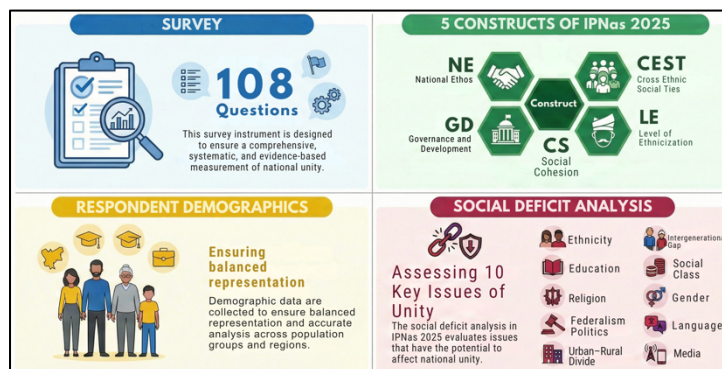
The IPNas 2025 questionnaire collects demographic information such as state of residence, gender, age, ethnicity, religion, level of education, employment category, household income, and status within the household (head, spouse, or child aged 18 and above).

The questionnaire also incorporates five (5) main constructs used to measure the level of national unity: Social Cohesion, National Ethos, Cross Ethnic Social Ties, Governance and Development, and Level of Ethnicization. Each construct is

supported by a detailed breakdown of items to ensure comprehensive measurement.

In addition, the Social Deficit construct is included as an external variable that measures key issues such as ethnicity, education, religion, politics federalism, urban-rural disparities, intergenerational gap, social class, gender, language, and media. The questionnaires comprise a total of 108 questions, following a pilot study conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and suitability of the instrument before its use in the actual research.

IPNas 2025 Instruments



Concepts and Constructs of IPNas 2025

IPNas 2025 encompasses five (5) main constructs: Social Cohesion (SC), National Ethos (NE), Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST), Governance and Development (GD), and Level of Ethnicization (LE). In addition, the Social Deficit variable is examined as a categorical variable.



Social Cohesion (SC)

Social cohesion refers to the level of integration, solidarity, and harmony within a multi-ethnic society that lives peacefully and prosperously. In this research, social cohesion is measured through six (6) key components: Sense of Belonging, Inclusiveness, Political and Organizational Participation, Recognition, Legitimacy, and Equality. Each component evaluates aspects such as cultural acceptance, social justice, trust in national institutions, and involvement in society.



National Ethos (NE)

National Ethos refers to the unique characteristics that bind individuals to society and the nation. NE encompasses shared values, spirit, beliefs, and identity that shape national consciousness. In IPNas 2025, this concept is measured through eight (8) key components: shared history, shared values, collective belonging, shared destiny, loyalty, commitment, national identity, and emotional attachment to the country. These components reflect the level of awareness, pride, support, and sentiment of the people toward national unity and development.



Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST)

Cross Ethnic Social Ties refer to positive interactions between individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds, occurring both formally and informally. CEST plays a vital role in fostering harmony and social integration. In IPNas 2025, it is measured through indicators such as the frequency of interactions, acceptance of other cultures, and the level of support within multi-ethnic neighbourhood communities.



Governance and Development (GD)

Governance and development refer to efficiency, fairness, and transparency in the management of power and resources by the government to improve the people's standard of living. Effective governance is demonstrated through the planning, implementation, and evaluation of national development policies fairly and sustainably. In this research, GD is measured based on public perceptions of six (6) key components: economic management, politics, crime, public services, public facilities, and community management, which indicate the government's effectiveness in meeting the needs and well-being of the people.



Level of Ethnicization (LE)

The Level of Ethnicization refers to the extent to which individuals identify with and adhere to their ethnic culture and values. This level influences perceptions, attitudes, and social

actions. LE is not fixed but can shift according to social, economic, and political conditions. In open, stable, and balanced situations, LE tends to decrease, whereas in threatening conditions, it may increase. This demonstrates that ethnicity is a dynamic social category shaped by broader social factors. In this research, LE is measured through nine (9) items that assess the extent to which individuals maintain their ethnic identity, language, and culture.



Social Deficit

Social Deficit refers to factors such as unequal economic opportunities, weak social networks, and declining trust between ethnic groups that can hinder unity and threaten societal stability. In IPNas 2025, the Social Deficit construct is measured across ten (10) key issues: ethnicity, gender, religion, language, education, social class, politics federalism, urban-rural disparities, intergenerational gap, and media. Respondents evaluate these issues by answering “Yes or No” for each category. Each issue reflects aspects of social imbalance that could undermine national cohesion if left unaddressed. This measurement helps identify the main challenges requiring attention in efforts to strengthen unity in Malaysia.

Construct Reliability

To ensure the constructs in IPNas 2025 are valid and reliable, analyses were conducted using three (3) main measures: Cronbach’s Alpha (CA), Composite Reliability (CR), and Average Variance Extracted (AVE). The values for all constructs, such as NE, GD, SC, LE and CEST, indicate very high reliability, exceeding the threshold of 0.70 for both

CA and CR. Subdimensions, including Commitment, Legitimacy, Politics, and Public Services, also recorded strong reliability. These findings demonstrate that the IPNas 2025 research instrument is stable and consistent, thereby ensuring that the results can be trusted as a scientific and comprehensive measure of national unity among Malaysians.

Convergent validity in IPNas 2025 was assessed using AVE, which indicates the extent to which items within a construct consistently measure the same concept, with an ideal threshold of at least 0.50. Most subconstructs, such as Shared Values, Emotional Attachment to the Country, Commitment, Legitimacy, and Public Services, recorded high and strong AVE values. Although some constructs, including NE, GD, and SC, recorded AVE values close to or slightly below the threshold, they are still considered valid in the context of large-scale social research. The high reliability value for SC further demonstrates good internal consistency, even with a lower AVE.

Data Collection Techniques and Processes

The data collection period for IPNas 2025 was conducted from 28 April to 30 June 2025 using a cross-sectional approach through face-to-face questionnaires and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) involving representatives from ministries, departments, and agencies, as well as participants from private sector, academia, community leaders, youth groups, primary and secondary school, higher education institutions, religious and non-religious associations, non-

governmental organizations (NGOs), and expert groups related to the research.

To ensure that the findings of IPNas 2025 truly represent all Malaysians, data collection was conducted comprehensively across all states and Federal Territories. The research was implemented under the guidance of the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), which provided the sampling framework based on official national statistical methods. To guarantee data accuracy and reliability, DOSM employed two basic units in the sampling process: Enumeration Block (EB) and Living Quarters (LQ).

- An **Enumeration Block (EB)** is a designated geographical area created for operational purposes, typically containing between 80 and 120 Living Quarters (LQ) on average. All EBs are established within gazetted boundaries, such as within a *mukim* (sub-district) or local authority area.

- A **Living Quarters (LQ)** refers to a separate and independent structure built for either permanent or temporary residential purposes.

i. Separate

A structure is considered separate if it is physically enclosed or divided by walls, fences, or other barriers and is covered by a roof.

ii. Independent

A structure is considered independent when it has direct access from public stairs or open spaces, allowing residents to enter and exit the LQ without passing through another person's living area.

Using this method, a total of 1,118 Enumeration Blocks (EB) and 11,180 Living Quarters (LQ) were identified across Malaysia as data collection locations for IPNas 2025. This approach ensures that every area, whether urban or rural, is represented fairly and proportionately.

IPNas 2025 Respondents by State

State	Enumeration Block (EB)	Living Quarters (LQ)	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents (%)
Johor	74	740	627	84.7
Kedah	65	650	463	71.2
Kelantan	54	540	480	88.9
Melaka	53	530	455	85.9
Negeri Sembilan	56	560	409	73.0
Pahang	56	560	473	84.5
Pulau Pinang	72	720	550	76.4
Perak	70	700	608	86.9
Perlis	53	530	477	90.0
Selangor	120	1,200	1,031	85.9
Terengganu	56	560	554	98.9
Sabah	107	1,070	922	86.2
Sarawak	106	1,060	847	79.9
WP Kuala Lumpur	70	700	588	84.0
WP Labuan	51	510	423	82.9
WP Putrajaya	55	550	541	98.4
Total	1,118	11,180	9,448	84.5

Data Analysis Process

Data analysis for IPNas 2025 employs descriptive statistics, namely frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, for all relevant variables. Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) is used to obtain the coefficient of determination (R^2) for the Social Cohesion construct, which serves as the national unity index value. Since the coefficient of determination ranges from 0 to 1, the index value likewise falls within this range

The IPNas 2025 research applies measurement scales adapted from the PLS-SEM framework developed by Hair et al. (2021).

IPNas Measurement Scale

Values of Scale	Interpretation
0.0 to 0.24	Weak Levels of Unity
0.25 to 0.49	Low Levels of Unity
0.50 to 0.74	Moderate Levels of Unity
0.75 to 1.0	High Level of Unity





**Strengthening national
unity requires inclusive
governance, healthy social
interactions, and sustained
commitment from all
segments of society**



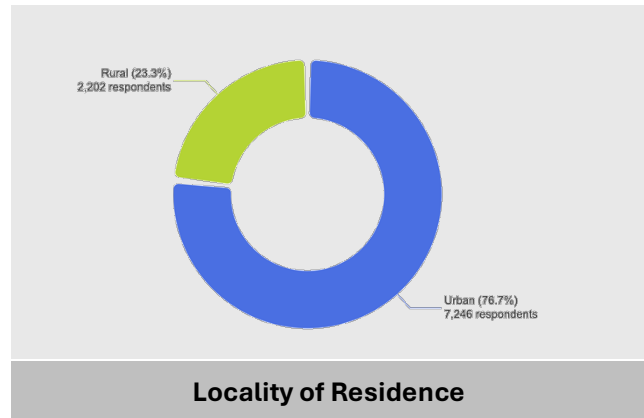
RESEARCH FINDINGS

Respondents Demography

IPNas 2025 involved 9,448 respondents from across Malaysia, representing diverse socio-demographic backgrounds. This profile provides a comprehensive picture of the composition of society participating in this national-level unity research.

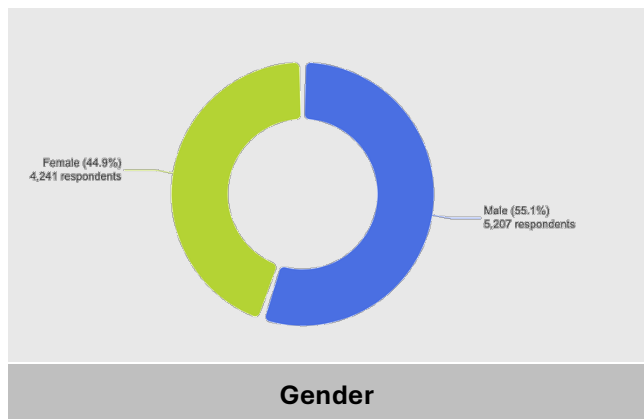
Locality of Residence

The majority of respondents (76.7%) live in urban areas, while 23.3 per cent reside in rural areas. This distribution reflects Malaysia's increasingly urban demographic reality, where experiences and perspectives on unity are shaped by the diversity of urban lifestyles.



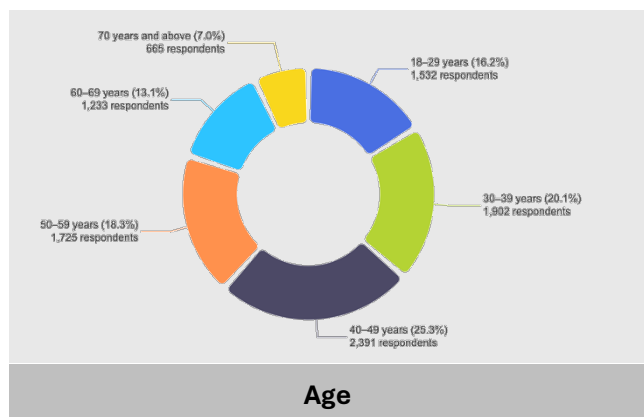
Gender

Respondents consist of 55.1 per cent male and 44.9 per cent female, reflecting a balanced gender distribution in the data collection. This balance ensures that perspectives from both genders are adequately represented on issues of unity.



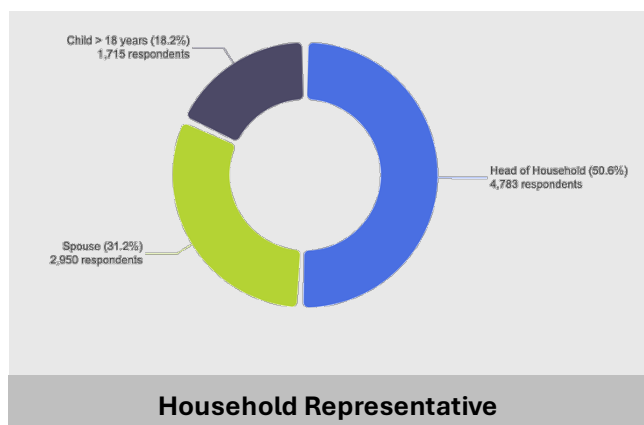
Age

The largest age group among respondents is 40–49 years old (25.3%), followed by those aged 30–39 (20.1%) and 50–59 (18.3%). This indicated that most respondents are middle-aged adults, while the youth group (18–29 years old) accounts for 16.2 per cent.



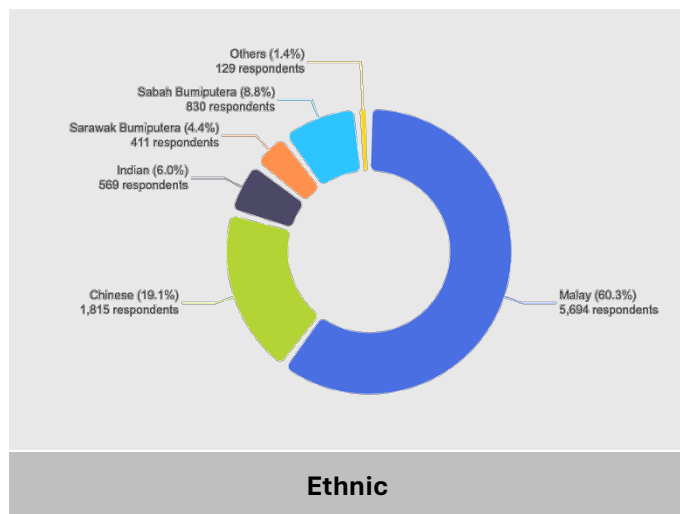
Household Representative

More than half of the respondents are Heads of Household (50.6%), followed by Spouses (31.2%) and Children aged 18 and above (18.2%). This distribution ensures that the data collected reflects the primary perspectives within Malaysian family structures.



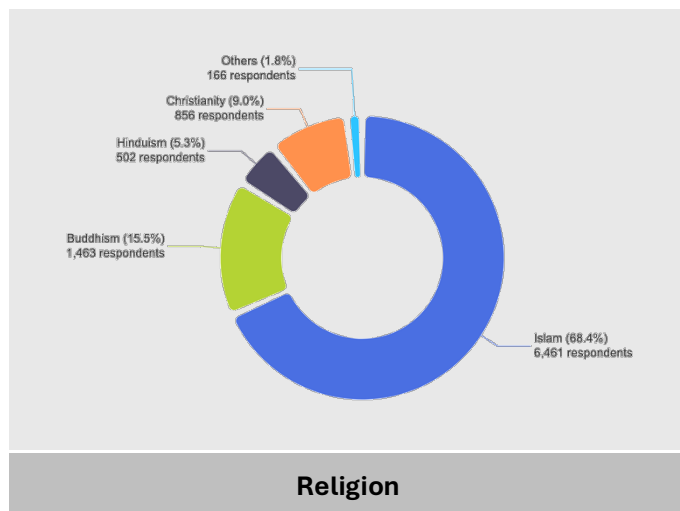
Ethnic

The results reveal an ethnic composition that reflects Malaysia's diversity. Most respondents are Malay (60.3%), followed by Chinese (19.1%) and Indian (6.0%). The Sabah and Sarawak Bumiputera groups account for 13.2 per cent of the whole population, while other ethnic groups represent 1.4 per cent. These figures indicate that IPNas 2025 successfully engaged respondents from various ethnic backgrounds, highlighting Malaysia's plural society.



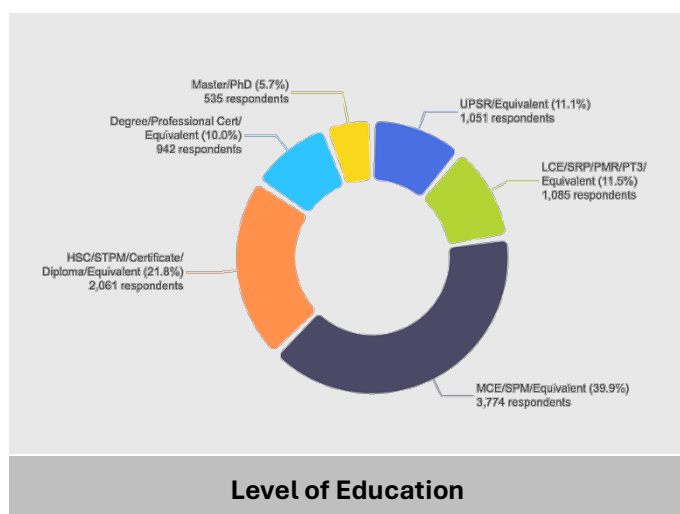
Religion

Most respondents are Muslim (68.4%), followed by Buddhist (15.5%), Christian (9.0%), Hindu (5.3%), and adherents of other religions (1.8%). This distribution aligns with Malaysia's official national demographic composition.



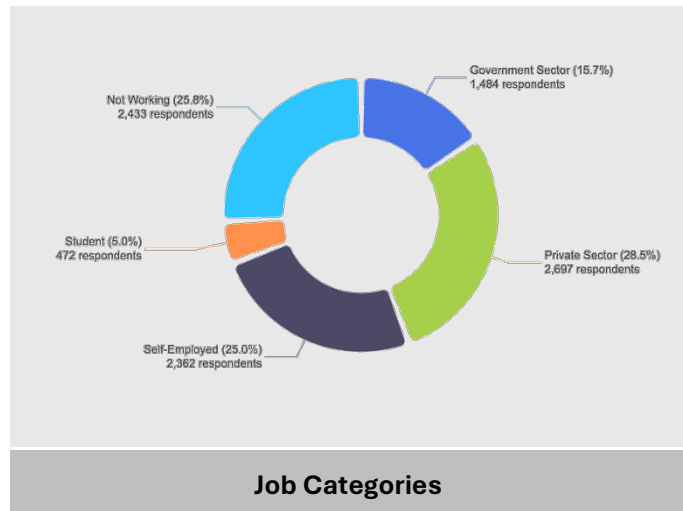
Level of Education

Respondents represent diverse educational backgrounds, reflecting Malaysia's social reality. The majority hold SPM or equivalent qualifications (39.9%), followed by those with Diploma, STPM, or technical certificates (21.8%). About 15.7 per cent possess a degree, master's, or PhD qualifications, while 22.6% have lower secondary or primary education. This diversity in educational attainment demonstrates that IPNas 2025 successfully engaged various societal groups, making the findings more balanced, comprehensive, and representative of Malaysians' voices.



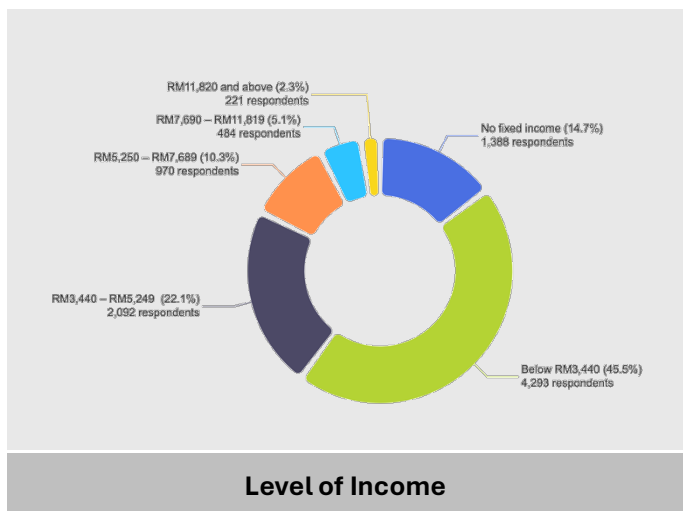
Job Categories

The largest group of respondents is private sector employees (28.5%), followed by the self-employed (25.0%), and the unemployed (25.8%). Meanwhile, 15.7 per cent work in the government sector, and 5.0 per cent are students. This distribution demonstrates good variation across economic and social groups.



Level of Income

Findings show that nearly half of respondents (45.5%) earn less than RM3,440 per month, while 22.1 per cent fall within RM3,440 to RM5,249. About 14.7 per cent report having no fixed income, including housewives, students, or the unemployed. Only 7.4 per cent earn more than RM7,690 per month. These results clearly indicate that economic issues and living standards are key factors requiring attention in efforts to strengthen national unity.



Descriptive Analysis of Research Constructs

This section illustrates public perceptions and understanding of unity in Malaysia. The survey employed a five-point agreement scale ranging from “Strongly Disagree” (1) to “Strongly Agree” (5). It is important to note that these findings do not yet represent the actual IPNas Score. Rather, they capture respondents’ levels of understanding and perceptions prior to further analysis through the structural model, which will determine the true impact of each study factor on national unity.



Social Cohesion (SC)

What is measured: A sense of harmony, justice, and acceptance in living together.

The overall average for SC is 4.20 (indicating a high level of agreement). The highest scores were recorded for recognition (4.33) and legitimacy (4.32), reflecting Malaysians’ respect for diversity, appreciation of national symbols, and trust in the rules and institutions. The sense of belonging (4.24) is also strong, suggesting comfort in living within a multi-ethnic society. Meanwhile, equality (4.11) and inclusiveness (4.07) indicate positive perceptions of fair opportunities, though there remains room for improvement. Overall, Malaysians view shared life as harmonious, fair, and stable, with strong trust in social systems and national values.



National Ethos (NE)

What is measured: A national spirit based on shared values, history, identity, and commitment to the country.

The overall average for NE is 4.38 (reflecting a high level of agreement). The highest score was recorded for emotional attachment to the country (4.48), indicating pride in Malaysia’s flag, anthem, and national image. The sense of belonging (4.44), shared values (4.40), and shared history (4.39) further demonstrate a robust national spirit. Other dimensions, such as national identity (4.38), shared future (4.36), commitment (4.33), and loyalty (4.22), also scored highly. Overall, respondents express great pride in being Malaysian citizens, a shared history and values, and a clear desire to contribute to the country’s future.



Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST)

What is measured: The level of cooperation, tolerance, and harmony among ethnic groups, particularly within neighbourhood communities.

The overall average for CEST is 4.22 (reflecting a high level of agreement). The highest-rate item shows that relationships among neighbours of different ethnicities are harmonious (4.33). Sharing public facilities, engaging in business transactions, and undertaking joint actions to address social problems also scored consistently high. These results indicate that Malaysians maintain strong Cross

Ethnic Social Ties, respect one another, and cooperate in everyday life.



Governance and Development (GD)

What is measured: Public perceptions of economic, political, security, public services, infrastructure, and community management.

The overall average score for GD is 3.92 (moderately high level of agreement). Respondents gave positive ratings for public services (4.08) and crime management (4.04). Political aspects (3.98) and community management (3.93) were also rated well, while public facilities (3.89) and the economy (3.72) scored lower. These findings suggest confidence in administrative efficiency and national security but also highlight ongoing concerns about living costs and economic balance, which require attention from the government.



Level of Ethnicization (LE)

What is measured: The strength of ethnic identity based on religion, language, culture, and traditional values.

The overall average for LE is 4.43 (high level of agreement). High scores were recorded for items related to religion, mother tongue, pride in traditional celebrations, and rejection of violence and ethnic prejudice. Interestingly, while ethnic identity remains strong, Malaysians also demonstrate openness to progress, technology, and gender equality. These findings indicate that Malaysians hold firmly to cultural roots and traditions while embracing change and living harmoniously in diversity.

Conclusion

This section shows that Malaysians generally express a high level of agreement on the values of unity, national spirit, and social harmony. However, the main strength of unity continues to be strongly shaped by good governance, balanced economic opportunities, and sustained social interaction.

Descriptive Analysis of Social Deficit

IPNas 2025 reveals that several issues continue to pose threats to national unity. Based on population weightage, the five (5) most frequently faced by society are: ethnicity (60.3%), media (57.2%), politics federalism (56.9%), religion (56.7%), and social class (47.5%). According to the Pareto Principle, prioritizing these five (5) issues could address the majority of public concerns about unity.

In brief, ethnicity remains the foremost challenge, indicating that racial sentiments and social interactions must be managed wisely to prevent further division. Media ranks second, underscoring the strong influence of news, digital content, and viral messages on emotions and perceptions within communities. Politics federalism, which follow closely, highlight how understanding the roles of federal and state governments shapes feelings of fairness and togetherness. Religion requires a careful approach as related issues are sensitive and easily misinterpreted. Meanwhile, social class and education emphasize persistent gaps, particularly in relation to the cost of living, economic mobility, and access to quality education.

Other issues also warrant attention, such as language (42.8%), urban–rural disparities (41.9%), intergenerational gap (41.5%), and gender (35.8%). Although these percentages are lower, if left unaddressed, they could evolve into new sources of tension. Examples include communication difficulties, unequal access to services between urban and rural areas,

misunderstandings between generations, and perceived gender inequality.

Pareto Analysis: Why are these six (6) issues important?

IPNas 2025 assessed Malaysians' perceptions of ten (10) social issues that could influence national unity. In this research, the concept of Social Deficit refers to gaps, tensions, or imbalances in social relationships that have the potential to disrupt harmony. Each issue was evaluated based on how frequently respondents agreed it posed a threat to inter-community relations.

Social Deficit Issues That Still Threaten Unity in Malaysia

Social Deficit	Yes (%)	No (%)
Ethnicity	60.3	39.7
Media	57.2	42.9
Politics Federalism	56.9	43.1
Religion	56.7	43.3
Social Class	47.5	52.5
Education	44.5	55.5
Language	42.8	57.2
Rural Urban Disparities	41.9	58.1
Intergenerational Gap	41.5	58.5
Gender	35.9	64.2

Findings show that ethnicity, media, politics federalism, and religion reflect public concerns about inter-ethnic relations, the influence of media narratives, the distribution of power between federal and state governments, and sensitivities surrounding religion-related issues. Meanwhile, social class, education, language, urban–rural disparities, intergenerational gap, and gender were rated lower as Social Deficits.

To identify the most critical factors, IPNas 2025 employed the Pareto Chart as an analytical tool. This chart highlights the issues contributing most significantly to the overall Social Deficit by analysing probability and cumulative probability. The Pareto principle, introduced by Italian economist and sociologist Vilfredo Pareto (1848–1923), originated from his observation that 80 per cent of the wealth in Italy was owned by 20 per cent of the population.

The pattern of “a small number of causes producing a large portion of effects” has since been observed across various fields, including management, economics, and social studies. Pareto analysis ensures that policy attention is directed toward the main causes with the greatest effects.

Although the principle is often associated with the 80/20 ratio, it is not a fixed rule. In social studies, the ratio may vary (e.g., 70/30 or 75/25) as long as the concentration pattern remains consistent. In the context of IPNas 2025, this pattern is evident through cumulative probabilities, which demonstrate the total impact of each issue when added sequentially.

Based on the analysis, the top four (4) issues, namely ethnicity (12.5%), media (24.3%), politics federalism (36.0%), and religion (47.7%), account for nearly half of the total Social Deficit in the country. When the fifth issue (social class, 57.5%) and sixth (education, 66.7%) are included, the cumulative probability rises sharply.

The seventh issue (language) brings the cumulative probability to 75.5 per cent, while the eighth issue (rural-urban

disparities), raises it beyond 84.2 per cent, clearly reflecting the Pareto principle that a small number of factors contribute to most of the effects. This percentage continues to increase to 92.8 per cent with the intergenerational gap issue before reaching 100 per cent, when gender is added.

The Probability Percentage of Social Deficit Issues That Still Threaten Unity in Malaysia

Social Deficit	Probability (%)	Cumulative Probability (%)
Ethnicity	12.5	12.5
Media	11.8	24.3
Politics Federalism	11.7	36.0
Religion	11.7	47.7
Social Class	9.8	57.5
Education	9.2	66.7
Language	8.8	75.5
Rural Urban Disparities	8.7	84.2
Intergenerational Gap	8.6	92.8
Gender	7.2	100.0

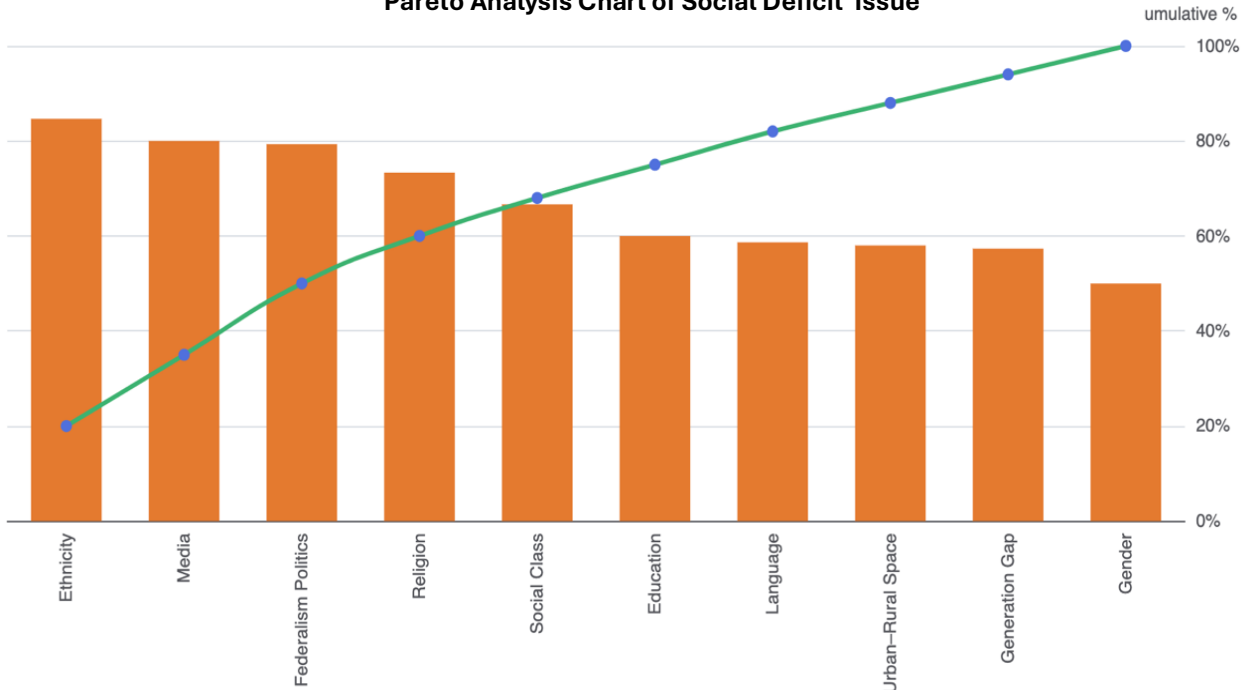
This pattern demonstrates that six to eight key issues are sufficient to explain more than 80 per cent of the Social Deficit impact, making them the most critical priorities for policy action. These issues are not only dominant in frequency but also form a cumulative probability curve that clearly reflects the Pareto pattern.

Overall, the IPNas 2025 analysis provides a clear picture of public priorities regarding unity issues. The four (4) dominant concerns, namely ethnicity, media, politics federalism and religion, emerge as the main sources of public unease. Pareto analysis confirms that a focused policy strategy addressing a few core issues will have a greater impact on unity than a scattered approach. By understanding this

cumulative probability structure, the government can design unity policies that are more targeted, inclusive, and effective in strengthening social harmony in Malaysia.

states such as Perak, Terengganu, Selangor, Putrajaya, and Sarawak, signalling the importance of localised approaches in schools and public services.

Pareto Analysis Chart of Social Deficit Issue



Issues by State: Common patterns and local uniqueness

The national pattern is found to be consistent, with ethnicity and media appearing among the top three (3) issues in nearly all states. However, each state displays its own uniqueness:

- Politics federalism are particularly prominent in major urban states and federal territories such as Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Labuan, Sabah, and Perlis. This pattern indicates the need for clearer alignment in communication and policy implementation between federal and state authorities.
- Language and education are increasing prominent in certain

- Urban-rural disparities are especially significant in Sabah and Labuan, particularly in relation to access to facilities and infrastructure.
- Gender and intergenerational gaps emerge as secondary issues in several states, requiring targeted interventions rather than a uniform approach.

Suggested Action to Be Taken

1. **National Focus:** Solve the five (5) key issues: ethnicity, media, politics federalism, religion, social class, and education, as these represent most public concerns.
2. **State Focus:** States with higher concerns related to language and education require more inclusive

school and public service programmes. Meanwhile, states facing urban–rural disparities need improved access and mobility initiatives. States with gender issues and intergenerational gaps call for targeted community-based interventions.

In summary, Malaysia demonstrates a generally strong sense of unity, though small conflicts remain. Addressing the five (5) main causes while tailoring actions by states represents the most effective and efficient way to strengthen togetherness across the country.

3. Role of Media and Digital Literacy:

Strengthen ethical reporting guidelines, promote media literacy campaigns, and foster positive national narratives to ensure that digital spaces do not amplify societal divides.

Social Deficit Issues By State Based on the Pareto Principle

Issues	Ethnites	Gender	Religion	Language	Education	Social Class	Federalisme Political	Rural Urban Space	Generation Gap	Media
MALAYSIA	1		4			5	3			2
Johor	3		4			5	2			1
Kedah	1		2			5	4			3
Kelantan	1		2	5		6	3			4
Melaka	1		2	5		6	4			3
Negeri Sembilan	1		2	6		5	4			3
Pahang	1		2	4	5	6	3			
Pulau Pinang	1		2			5	4			3
Perak	1		4	7	6	5	3			2
Perlis	3		4				1			2
Selangor	2		4	6		5	1			3
Terengganu	1	5	3	7		6	2			4
Sabah	3		4				1	5		2
Sarawak	1	2	3	4	5	6	4			
WP Kuala Lumpur	2		3		5	6	1			4
WP Labuan	1		4			5	2	6		3
WP Putrajaya	1		2	6		5	4			3

Structural Modeling Analysis

How is the IPNas Score Generated?

The IPNas score is calculated using the R Squared (R^2) value for the Social Cohesion factor within the structured model. R Squared (R^2) is a scientific measure that indicates how well the research constructs, namely National Ethos (NE), Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST), Level of Ethnicization (LE) and Governance and Development (GD) explain or contribute to the level of unity among Malaysians. The R^2 value ranges from 0 to 1, with higher values reflecting stronger unity outcomes.

In short, the higher the R^2 value for Social Cohesion, the stronger the influence of factors such as National Ethos, Cross Ethnic Social Ties, Level of Ethnicization, as well as Governance and Development on national unity.

Additionally, this research evaluates the overall effects among constructs

(including both direct and indirect pathways). For example, Good Governance and Development not only directly enhances unity but also indirectly strengthens it by improving National Ethos and fostering Cross Ethnic Social Ties.

In other words, the model reveals the mechanisms through which unity takes shape in Malaysians' daily lives.

Why Is This Approach Important?

This structured approach is crucial because it provides a scientific and comprehensive picture of unity. It does not merely capture public sentiment but identifies the actual factors driving togetherness and highlights the priorities that require attention from both the government and society.

Through this analysis, IPNas 2025 answers a central question: Which factors are most strongly reinforcing national unity in Malaysia today?



National Unity Index (IPNas) 2025 Score

IPNas 2025 Score at the National Level

IPNas 2025 shows that Malaysians are at a moderate level of unity, with a National Score of 0.701, based on the R Squared (R^2) value for Social Cohesion. This means that about 70 per cent of Malaysia's unity strength can be explained by four (4) key factors:

1. **National Ethos (NE)** – rooted in patriotism and a shared sense of belonging.
2. **Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST)** – built on closeness and trust among ethnic groups.
3. **Governance and Development (GD)** – shaped by confidence in government systems and policies.
4. **Level of Ethnicization (LE)** – based on the resilience of ethnic identity within a plural society.

Factors Influencing National Unity

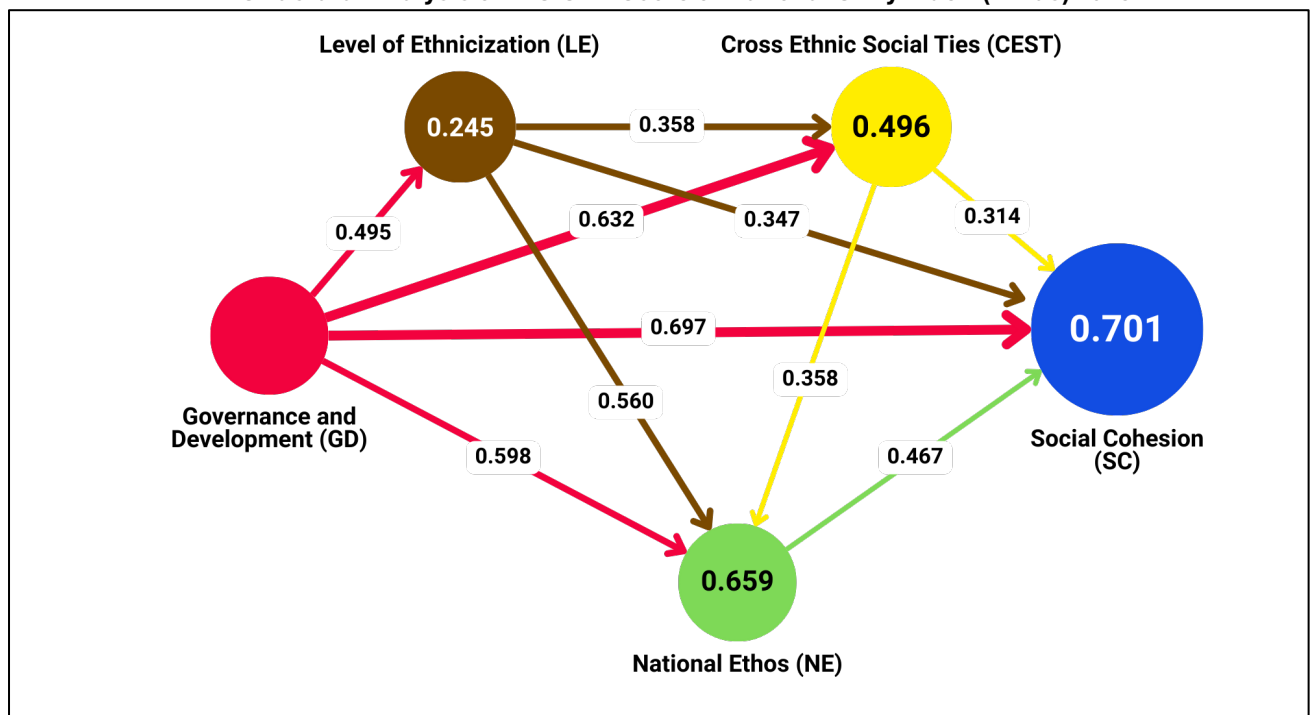
The research found that the achievement of national unity is influenced by four (4) key factors namely Governance and Development, National Ethos, Cross Ethnic Social Ties, and Level of Ethnicization. These constructs are interrelated and collectively shape the overall level of national unity.

Governance and Development (GD)

GD is the most influential factor in determining the strength of national unity. The research shows that when people perceive governance and national development as fair and transparent, social trust and the sense of togetherness increase significantly. Statistically, the influence of GD on Social Cohesion is 0.697, a moderately high value that positions it as the primary driver of national unity.

National Ethos (NE)

Structural Analysis of PLS-SEM Score of National Unity Index (IPNas) 2025



This factor represents patriotism, loyalty, and shared responsibility among citizens. NE shows a moderate influence on Social Cohesion (0.467) but is highly significant because it forms the foundation of national values that unite people across ethnic and religious differences.

Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST)

This factor reflects the level of interaction and cooperation among ethnic groups in daily life. Cross Ethnic Social Ties show a moderate influence on Social Cohesion (0.314). This means Malaysians already engage and collaborate, but there is still room to strengthen deeper and more meaningful engagement between communities.

Level of Ethnicization (LE)

This factor refers to pride in one's cultural and ethnic identity. The Level of Ethnicization shows a relatively small influence on Social Cohesion (0.347), yet LE plays an important role in shaping national values and patterns of social interaction. This finding indicates that Malaysians are increasingly mature, appreciating their ethnic identities

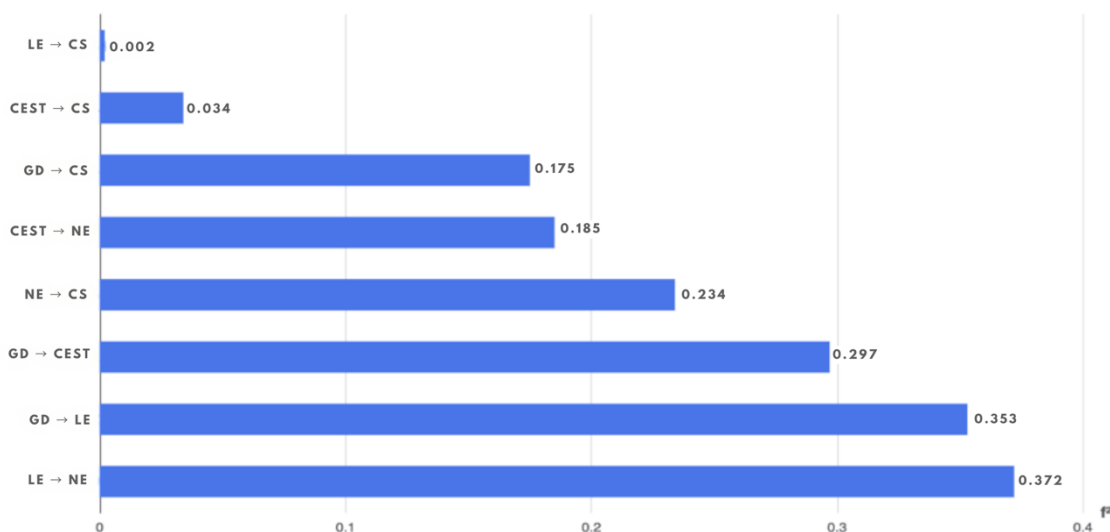
What Can Be Understood from This Score?

Overall, the score of 0.701 shows that Malaysia is on a stable and positive path toward unity.

Good Governance and Development has been proven to be the main factor driving national values and harmonious social interaction. Whereas, National Ethos serves as the moral and emotional foundation binding citizens together, and Cross Ethnic Social Ties act as a bridge connecting everyday life among Malaysians.

Nevertheless, the Level of Ethnicization continues to play an important and meaningful role in shaping shared values. This highlights the need for unity to be continuously nurtured through fair, inclusive, and people-centred policies and programmes that directly impact citizens' lives.

Factor Effect Level (f^2)



without allowing them to hinder unity.

Summary of the Influence of Factors on Unity

Reference for Strength of Influence: *Hair, Hult, Ringle & Sarstedt (2022)*. Values range from 0 to 1 (higher values indicate stronger influence).

Reference for Effect Size: *Cohen (1988)*

- ≥ 0.35 = Large
- ≥ 0.15 = Moderate
- ≥ 0.02 = Small
- < 0.02 = Very small or insignificant

The Influence of Factors on Unity

Factor / Influence	Overall Strength of Factor Influence	Factor Effect Level (f^2)	Interpretation of Factor Effect Levels
GD $\rightarrow$ SC	0.697	0.175	Medium
EN $\rightarrow$ SC	0.467	0.234	Medium
CEST $\rightarrow$ SC	0.314	0.034	Small
LE $\rightarrow$ SC	0.347	0.002	Very small
LE $\rightarrow$ EN	0.560	0.372	Large
GD $\rightarrow$ LE	0.495	0.353	Large
GD $\rightarrow$ CEST	0.632	0.297	Medium
CEST $\rightarrow$ EN	0.358	0.185	Medium

Note: SC = Social Cohesion, GD = Governance and Development, EN = National Ethos, CEST = Cross Ethnic Social Ties, LE = Level of Ethnicization



IPNas 2025 Scores by Region

The National Unity Index 2025 (IPNas 2025) recorded a score of 0.701. This finding indicates that national unity is at a moderate level and continues to strengthen. Although there are variations in unity levels across zones and states, all remain within the moderate to high range compared to the national score (0.701), reflecting a strong and positive foundation for national unity.

IPNas 2025 Score by Region

Region	IPNas 2025 Score (R ²)	Unity Level Interpretation
Peninsular Malaysia	0.701	Moderate
Sarawak	0.791	High
Eastern Peninsular	0.741	Moderate
Sabah & Labuan	0.726	Moderate
Southern Peninsular	0.719	Moderate
Peninsular Malaysia	0.691	Moderate
Central Peninsular	0.670	Moderate
Northern Peninsular	0.650	Moderate

Peninsular Malaysia (0.691)

Peninsular Malaysia demonstrates a moderately high level of unity, driven by strong governance systems, a solid sense of national identity, and positive appreciation of ethnic identity. Shared national values continue to be the main catalyst for fostering a sense of belonging among diverse ethnic communities. Although inter-ethnic social relations are not yet deeply embedded, inclusive governance and a strong foundation of national values help maintain social stability and harmony across the region.

Sarawak (0.791)

Sarawak is among the states with the highest score nationwide, reflecting highly harmonious social relations among communities of various ethnicities and religions. This is further supported by strong local community practices that uphold the culture of living together, mutual respect, and the tradition of *gotong-royong* (communal work), which remains strong in rural and small-town areas.

Eastern Peninsular (0.741)

This zone (covering Terengganu, Kelantan, and Pahang) shows a moderate to nearly high level of unity, with strengths in neighbourhood relations and a sense of belonging within local communities. The people maintain traditional social networks and cooperation in everyday life.

Sabah dan Labuan (0.726)

People in Sabah and the Federal Territory of Labuan also show moderate to nearly high levels of unity. This is reinforced by openness and a culture of tolerance practiced by various local ethnic groups such as Kadazan-Dusun, Bajau, Murut, and Brunei Malays. This open social pattern makes Sabah one of the best examples of ethnic integration in Malaysia.

Southern Peninsular (0.719)

The Southern Zone (Johor, Melaka, and Negeri Sembilan) shows a moderate to nearly high level of unity, with active inter-ethnic interaction, especially in urban areas like Johor Bahru and Melaka. These relationships are supported by various community programs and local unity campaigns.

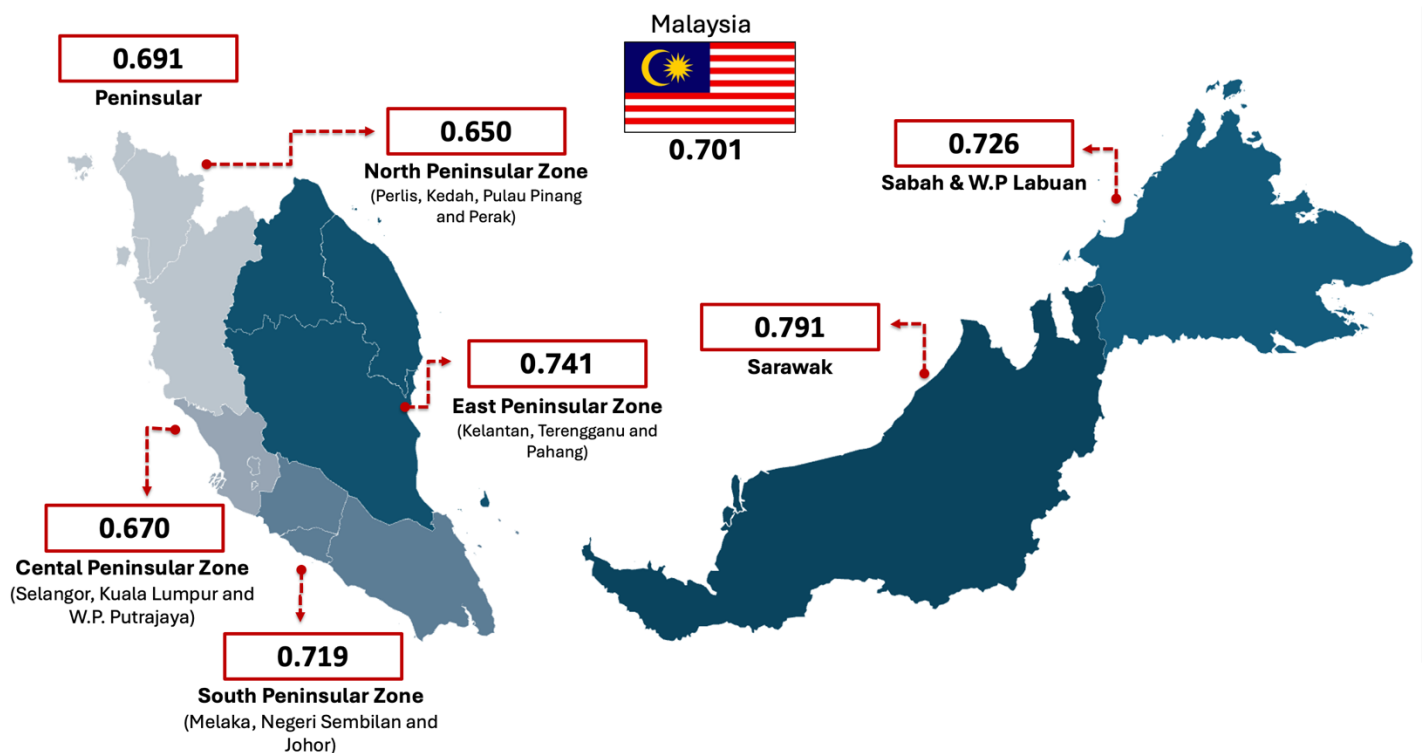
Central Peninsular (0.670)

Although achieving a moderate score, the Central Zone (including Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, and Putrajaya) reflects a dynamic but complex social life due to socio-economic diversity and high urbanization. Social trust and inter-ethnic interaction still need to be strengthened through urban community programs and intercultural dialogue.

Northern Peninsular (0.650)

The Northern Zone (Perlis, Kedah, Penang, and Perak) shows a moderate level of unity but has great potential to improve through strengthening joint activities between urban and rural communities. Ethnic diversity and a long history of social interaction make this region important for understanding national unity patterns.

IPNas 2025 Scores by Region



IPNas 2025 Scores by State

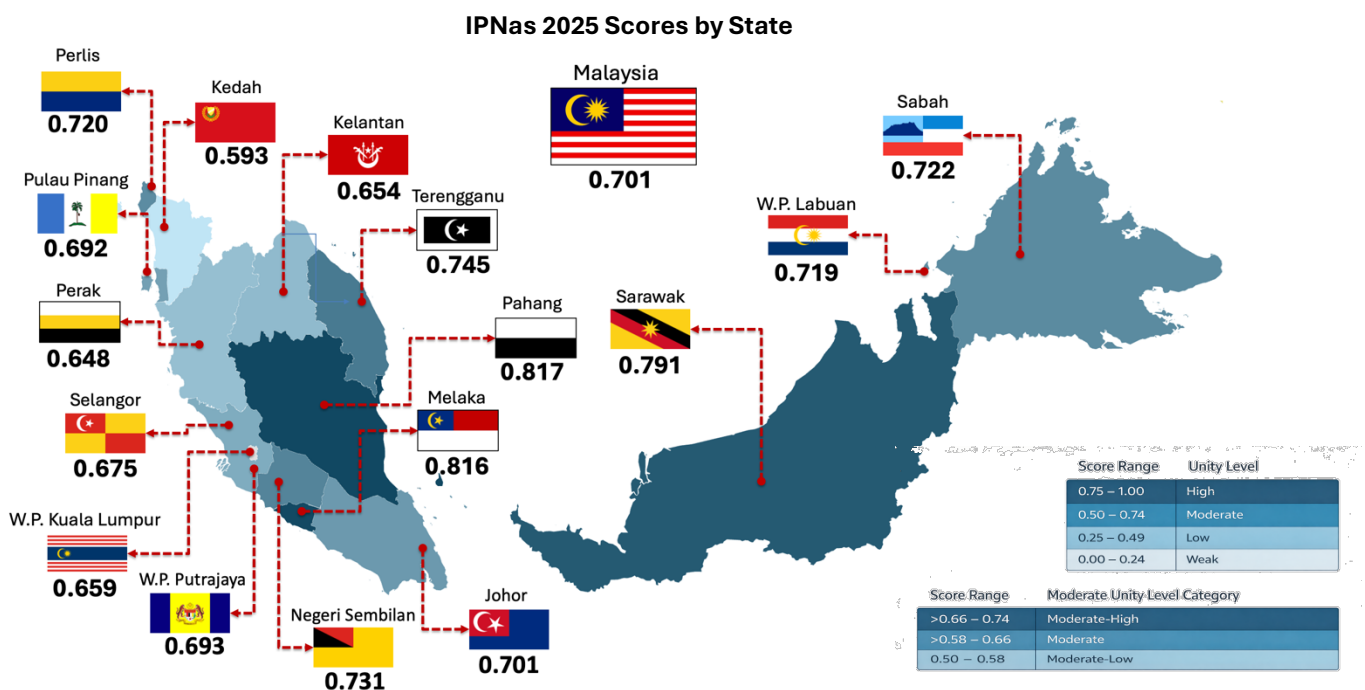
The states with the highest scores are Pahang (0.817), Melaka (0.816), and Sarawak (0.791). These states demonstrate strong unity and positive inter-ethnic and interreligious relations. Their high scores also reflect strong public confidence in governance systems and shared values that continue to shape everyday social life.

Several other states also score above the national average, including Terengganu (0.745), Negeri Sembilan (0.731), Sabah (0.722), Perlis (0.720), and the Federal Territory of Labuan (0.719). These scores indicate positive levels of unity, though continued strengthening is needed through community-based activities, value-driven education, and broader inter-ethnic engagement.

Meanwhile, Johor matches the national score (0.701). States below the national

average include Putrajaya (0.693), Penang (0.692), Selangor (0.675), Kuala Lumpur (0.659), Kelantan (0.654), Perak (0.648), and Kedah (0.593). Although still within the moderate category, these scores indicate the presence of challenges that need attention, such as regional development gaps, inter-community social interaction patterns, and varying levels of trust in public institutions.

Overall, the findings indicate that Malaysia is on a stable path toward stronger national unity, with several states demonstrating particularly strong performance. However, each state has its own unique context and challenges; therefore, improvement efforts must be tailored to local needs. Programmes that emphasise national values, cross-community interaction, and inclusive governance must continue to be strengthened to narrow unity gaps between states and further reinforce harmonious living across the country.



Justification of IPNas 2025 Scores by State



Pahang

(Score: 0.817 – High)

Pahang exhibits the highest level of national unity in Malaysia. This is primarily driven by fair and effective Governance and Development (GD), supported by a strong National Ethos (NE) and robust Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST). Citizens demonstrate high confidence in public institutions and benefit from balanced development across both urban and rural areas.



Melaka

(Score: 0.816 – High)

Melaka attains a high level of national unity, driven by effective Governance and Development (GD) and inclusive development policies. The population exhibits a strong National Ethos (NE), robust Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST) and active engagement in community activities. Transparent governance and Development (GD) and a harmonious social environment constitute the state's key strengths.



Sarawak

(Score: 0.791 – High)

Sarawak records a strong unity due to effective management of ethnic diversity, high community cohesion, and strong trust in the state government. Governance and Development (GD) play a major role in building stable Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST) and National Ethos (NE). Daily interactions among diverse ethnic groups create a peaceful and inclusive environment.



Terengganu

(Score: 0.745 – Moderate)

The people of Terengganu show a strong sense of togetherness, rooted in religious, family, and community values. Unity is largely influenced by National Ethos (NE) and Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST). However, the direct impact of National Ethos (NE) on unity remains small, requiring efforts to expand social interaction and cross ethnic activities.



Negeri Sembilan

(Score: 0.731 – Moderate)

Unity in Negeri Sembilan is driven by good Governance and Development (GD) and strong traditional community spirit. National Ethos (NE) serves as the main bond among ethnic groups. The community shows openness to cultural diversity, but stronger interaction between generations and urban-rural areas is still needed.



Sabah

(Score: 0.722 – Moderate)

Sabah stands out for its ethnic diversity, which serves as a key strength for national unity. A strong National Ethos (NE) and well-established Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST) contribute to social stability. However, development gaps persist, necessitating improvements in basic infrastructure and the promotion of cultural tolerance to ensure balanced unity between urban and rural areas.



Perlis

(Score: 0.720 – Moderate)

Perlis demonstrates stable national unity despite its small size. Effective Governance and Development (GD) along with strong neighbourhood spirit reinforce positive Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST). The primary challenge lies in expanding opportunities for interaction

and participation in national programs across all age groups.



Labuan

(Score: 0.719 – Moderate)

Unity in Labuan is influenced by the identity of multi-ethnic communities living together in a small urban area. Good local Governance and Development (GD) and National Ethos (NE) help build mutual trust. However, economic development must be balanced with efforts to strengthen social interaction, particularly among the younger generation.



Johor

(Score: 0.701 – Moderate)

Johor is at the national average. National Ethos (NE) and good Governance and Development (GD) are key strengths, but Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST) can be improved. Community programmes and youth engagement need to be expanded to maintain unity and reduce the urban-rural gap.



Putrajaya

(Score: 0.693 – Moderate)

Putrajaya shows a moderate level of unity, likely supported by a strong National Ethos (NE) among civil servants. However, community involvement and social activities outside the workplace remain low. More family, neighbourhood, and community activities are needed to strengthen social interaction in its administrative enclave.



Penang

(Score: 0.692 – Moderate)

Penang reflects rich cultural diversity but faces challenges of social and economic gaps across areas and ethnic groups. While National Ethos (NE) exists,

perceptions of social justice and affordable housing need improvement to enable harmonious interaction among diverse communities.



Selangor

(Score: 0.675 – Moderate)

As the most developed and densely populated state, Selangor faces complex challenges in fostering national unity. While Governance and Development (GD) are strong, efforts to strengthen National Ethos (NE) and Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST) remain essential. Initiatives promoting cross-ethnic community engagement and reducing urban-rural disparities are particularly important.



Kuala Lumpur

(Score: 0.659 – Moderate)

Kuala Lumpur reflects dynamic urban unity but is affected by individualistic lifestyles and socio-economic differences. While Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST) remain good, gaps between communities need to be bridged through more neighbourhood activities, community-friendly public spaces, and local harmony programs.



Kelantan

(Score: 0.654 – Moderate)

Kelantan shows strong family and community values, but Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST) remain low. Religious and cultural factors drive internal unity, but broader national programs promoting multi-ethnic engagement are needed.



Perak

(Score: 0.648 – Moderate)

Perak demonstrates stable governance, but unity remains moderate due to development gaps and uneven social

participation. National Ethos (NE) exists but needs reinforcement through civic education and local community initiatives.



Kedah

(Score: 0.593 – Moderate)

Kedah records the lowest moderate unity score. Key factors include urban–rural development gaps, strong National Ethos (NE) influence, and limited Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST). While national values exist, they are insufficient to balance economic and social differences. Efforts to strengthen unity should focus on civic education, community interaction, and inclusive Governance and Development (GD).



Summary of IPNas 2025 Outcomes

The National Unity Index (IPNas) 2025 shows that Malaysians generally live in a peaceful environment, respect one another, and lean toward strong social cohesion. Most states fall within the moderate to high range, indicating that the foundation of national unity remains stable. However, there is still room for improvement, particularly in strengthening Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST) and developing a more inclusive National Ethos (NE).

Highlights of Performance by State and Federal Territory

Four (4) states, namely Pahang, Melaka, Sarawak, and Terengganu, recorded high levels of unity. These states demonstrate a strong combination of balanced development, mature management of ethnic identity, and robust national values. Their success can serve as a model for strengthening national unity.

Sabah also recorded a high level of unity. National Ethos (NE) plays a key role in uniting diverse ethnic communities. Sabah's experience proves that ethnic diversity is not a barrier but an asset to unity.

Perlis stands out for its strong and positive Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST). Daily interactions among its people contribute significantly to a sense of togetherness and mutual respect, reflecting the effectiveness of inclusively planned community activities.

Several other states, including Johor, Negeri Sembilan, Penang, Perak, Kedah, Selangor, and Putrajaya, recorded

moderate levels of unity. These findings indicate that the foundation of unity is solid but requires strengthening through programs that promote Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST), such as community sports, volunteer activities, and joint neighbourhood initiatives.

Kuala Lumpur highlights the importance of National Ethos (NE) in a diverse urban setting. However, economic gaps, living costs, and housing segregation continue to affect social cohesion. More inclusive urban social development is needed to rebuild spaces for shared interaction.

Labuan remains stable at a moderate level, with harmony supported by inclusive development and fair ethnic management. This territory has strong potential to become a model of how small regions can successfully balance economic progress with social unity.

Three (3) Key Drivers of Unity

The IPNas 2025 findings reveal that national unity is driven by three (3) main factors:

1. Fair Governance and Development (GD)

When development is implemented equitably and public services are accessible to all groups, people develop greater trust in the system and find it easier to cooperate.

2. Inclusive Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST)

When ethnic identities are respected fairly and embraced as a shared strength, they foster mutual appreciation and reinforce national values.

3. National Ethos (NE)

Love for the country, pride in being Malaysian, and loyalty to national symbols form the foundation of harmony and solidarity.

However, IPNas 2025 also found that social interaction alone is not enough to drive unity. Strong social relations must be translated into real cooperation in community activities and daily life.

A Way Forward

Based on IPNas 2025 findings, several key steps need to be strengthened to ensure unity continues to increase to a higher level:

1. Continue fair and inclusive development.

All segments of society should benefit from development, regardless of ethnicity, region, or socio-economic status.

2. Embed national values in daily life.

Patriotism and pride in being Malaysian should be instilled in schools, workplaces, places of worship, and communities.

3. Transform interaction into real cooperation.

Encourage joint activities such as *gotong-royong* (community co-operation), community gardens, consumer cooperatives, neighbourhood sports, and disaster relief programs.

4. Strengthen transparent micro-governance.

Clear local complaint systems and community aid management will increase public trust in institutions.

5. Use high-performing states as reference models.

States like Pahang, Melaka, Sarawak, and Terengganu can serve as best-practice examples of integrating development with unity.



**IPNas 2025 was developed
as a systematic, scientific,
and evidence-based
framework to assess the
level of unity among the
Malaysian people**

The background is a solid blue color with large, abstract, curved shapes in a lighter blue and orange hue. These shapes are layered and overlap, creating a sense of depth and movement. The orange shapes are primarily located in the top-left and bottom-right corners, while the lighter blue shapes are more centrally located.

TREND ANALYSIS

IPNas TREND ANALYSIS, 2018 to 2025

The IPNas, which have been conducted since 2018, shows a consistent upward trend among Malaysians. Over seven years, the IPNas score increased from 0.567 in 2018 to 0.701 in 2025, indicating improvements in social relations and national spirit.

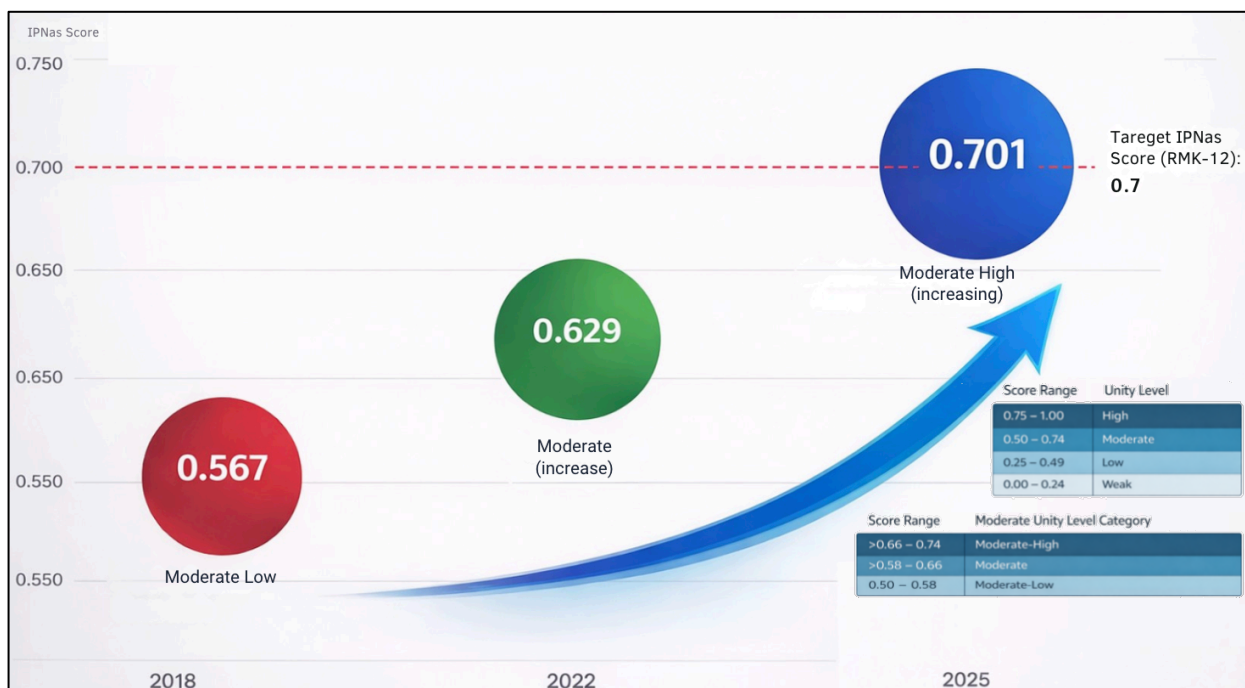
Malaysia's Seven-Year Journey of Unity

In 2018, the national unity level stood at 0.567, categorised as moderately low. This reflected challenges in inter-ethnic relations, regional development gaps, and trust in public institutions, all of which required strengthening. Society also faced significant socio-economic disparities and differing perceptions of social justice.

In 2022, the IPNas score increased to 0.629, a notable improvement supported by government policies and initiatives such as the National Unity Policy and the National Unity Action Plan (PTPN 2021–2030). Civic education programs, inter-ethnic dialogues, and community initiatives were expanded, with Malaysians becoming more open, understanding one another, and viewing diversity as an asset for social harmony.

The most significant increase occurred in 2025, when the IPNas score reached 0.701, surpassing the moderately high threshold and achieving the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12MP) target. This demonstrates that Malaysians have reached a stronger level of unity, marked by a heightened national spirit and greater confidence in governance systems.

Improvement Trend of IPNas 2018, 2022 and 2025 Score



What Contributed to This Increase?

The increase in IPNas scores from 2018 to 2025 was not accidental, but the result of several important factors:

Governance and Development (GD)

This factor is the main driver of national unity. Its influence on Social Cohesion increased from 0.436 (2018) to 0.697 (2025). When people perceive development as fair, transparent, and inclusive, trust in institutions grows. Citizens feel more confident, secure, and willing to cooperate regardless of background.

National Ethos (NE)

National Ethos encompasses patriotism, loyalty, and shared responsibility. Its value increased from 0.412 (2018) to 0.467 (2025). NE remains the core principle of national unity, strengthening the sense of “we are one team” and helping to shape a shared national identity across all ethnic groups.

Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST)

CESR reflects positive relationships among multi-ethnic communities, but its value declined slightly from 0.438 (2018) to 0.314 (2025). This suggests that while people are interacting with one another, the quality of interaction needs improvement. Social engagement should be built on trust, empathy, and genuine cooperation in activities to maximize its benefits.

Level of Ethnicization (LE)

This factor shows how ethnic identity is balanced with national identity. Its value increased from 0.210 (2018) to 0.347 (2025), providing positive evidence that Malaysians are becoming more mature in managing diversity. This means society no longer sees ethnicity as a barrier but as part of an inclusive Malaysian identity.

The background is a solid blue color with large, abstract, curved shapes in a lighter blue and orange hue. These shapes are positioned in the top-left and bottom-right corners, creating a sense of movement and depth.

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

The National Unity Index (IPNas) 2025 was conducted to measure the level of unity among Malaysians through nationwide data collection. A total of 11,180 Living Quarters (LQ) represented by 1,118 Enumeration Blocks (EB) were designated by DOSM as the research sample. The targeted respondents needed to be reached with a minimum coverage of 70 per cent. Data collection was carried out between 28 April and 30 June 2025 through face-to-face interviews using both physical questionnaires and digital applications. The research was assisted by enumerators from government agencies, higher education institutions, and local leaders, and monitored by PDRM for security.

The actual coverage achieved was 9,448 respondents (84.5%), exceeding the target. Key obstacles faced during data collection included restricted access to condominiums and elite housing areas, individualistic attitudes among urban residents, long distances to remote areas in Sabah and Sarawak, bad weather, language barriers, and limited internet connectivity.

The IPNas 2025 model was built based on five (5) main constructs: Governance and Development (GD) as the independent variable; Level of Ethnicization (LE), Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CESR), and National Ethos (NE) as mediating variables; and Social Cohesion (SC) as the dependent variable. Validity and reliability tests showed that all constructs achieved strong Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability values. The Average Variance Extracted also exceeded standards, proving that the instrument is valid and reliable. The analysis applied population weightage from DOSM to ensure findings reflect the actual population.

The overall IPNas 2025 score increased to 0.701, compared to 0.629 (2022) and 0.567 (2018), remaining at a moderate level but showing positive progress. This improvement reflects the success of unity-strengthening efforts through policies such as the National Unity Policy (NUP) and the National Unity Action Plan (2021-2030), which have begun to show impact. In addition, the IPNas 2025 indicator was developed based on quality data, the use of local enumerators who are familiar with community contexts, and comprehensive statistical modelling methods of high quality, all of which enhanced the credibility and integrity of the whole index.

The social deficit analysis in national level found that issues such as ethnicity, media, politics federalism, religion, and social class remain major challenges that might affect national unity. State-level analysis also identified contextual issues such as language, urban-rural disparities and intergenerational gap, which influence the dynamics of local unity. Thus, this report recommends that unity strategies be implemented in a targeted manner according to state contexts, while strengthening governance, increasing inter-ethnic interaction, fostering shared values, and addressing social deficits in an integrated way.

KEY PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1



The Number of Respondent Exceeded the Target of 9,448 Respondent (84.5%)

Successfully achieved from the national sample.

2



The National Unity Score increased to 0.701

This reflects a continuous increase compared to 0.629 in 2022 and 0.567 in 2018.

3



A Renewed Focus on Social Relations

The survey model places emphasis on Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST)

CHALLENGES IN MANAGING SOCIAL DEFICIT

5 Social Deficit Factors That Needs Attention in National Level

1



Ethnicity

2



Media

3



Politics and
Federalism

4



Religion

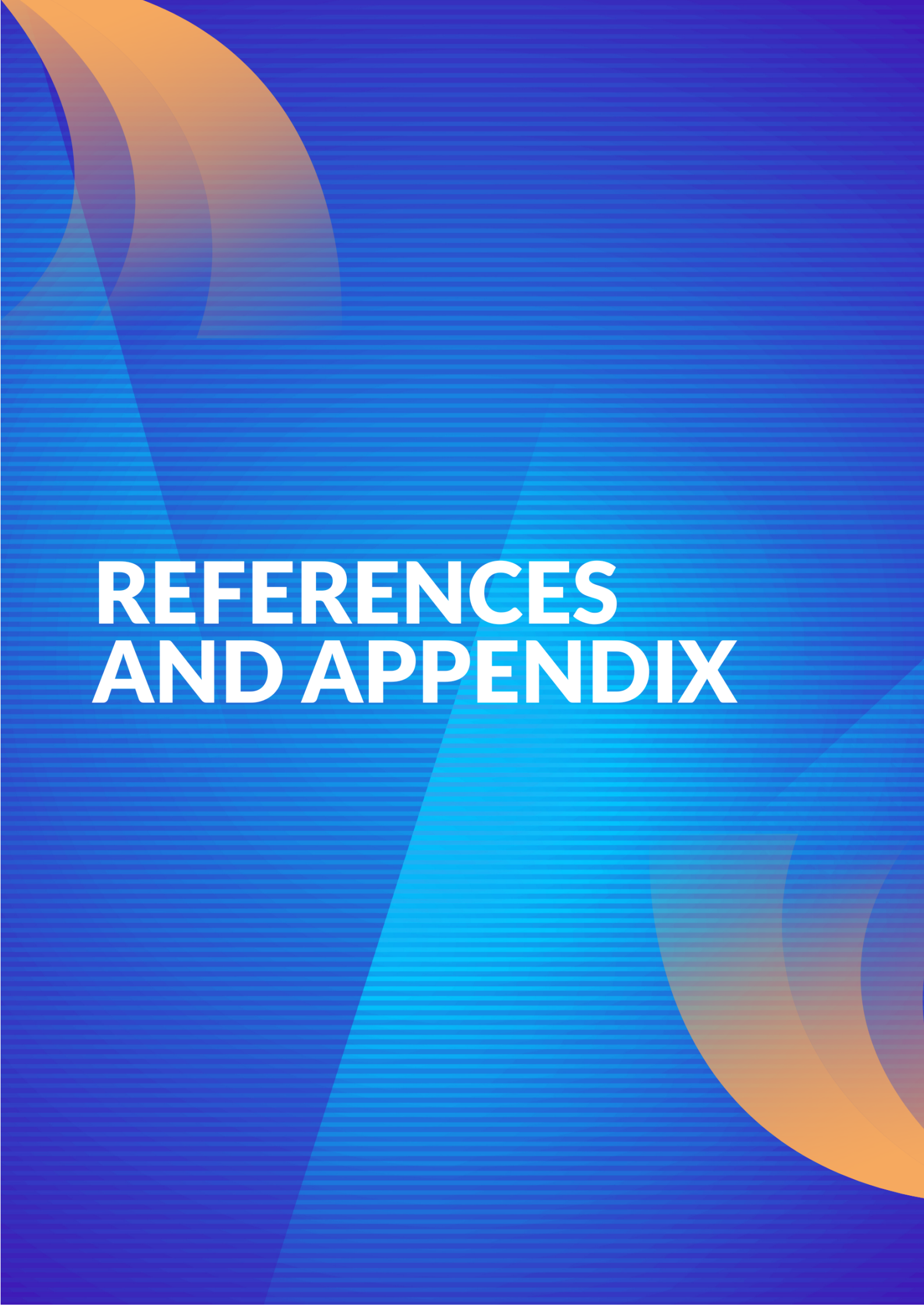
5



Social Class



**Unity in diversity is
Malaysia's strength**



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APPENDIX

The Essence of the Questionnaire

1. Social Cohesion (SC)

Focus: Harmony, justice and acceptance in living together.



Subdimensions & Keywords:

1. **Sense of Belonging:**
Comfort living with different races, cultural diversity as strength, sympathy between neighbours.
2. **Inclusion:**
Equitable education, employment, assistance and health opportunities.
3. **Political/Organisational Participation:**
Freedom of voting, expression and participation in multi-racial associations.
4. **Recognition:**
Respect for other religions and cultures, recognition of services, national language.
5. **Legitimacy:**
Support for the constitution, government policies, legitimate leadership.
6. **Commonality:**
Opportunities to study, work and help without favouritism.

2. National Ethos (NE)

Focus: National spirit, shared values and national identity.



Subdimensions & Keywords:

1. **History Sharing:**
National history awareness, avoiding past conflicts, Independence Day celebrations.
2. **Value Sharing:**
Interracial cooperation, empathy, social concern.
3. **Shared Belonging:**
Pride in diversity, belief in the *Rukun Negara* and Islam as the religion of the Federation.
4. **Sharing the Future:**
Confidence in Malaysia's future, family well-being, the spirit of defending the country.
5. **Loyalty:**
Prioritizing the national interest, safeguarding the good name of Malaysia, responsibility to pay taxes.
6. **Commitment:**
Prioritise local products, obey the law, support community programmes.
7. **State Emotional Attachment:**
A sense of pride, anger or disappointment towards the symbol of the state.
8. **National Identity:**

Pride in a common symbol (e.g. Harimau Malaya, nasi lemak).

3. Cross Ethnic Social Ties (CEST)

Focus: Neighbourly life and social interactions of different races.

Key Keywords:

1. Religious and cultural activities in the neighbourhood.
2. Multi-ethnic sharing of facilities and transactions.
3. Cooperation addresses social and criminal issues.
4. Neighbourly relations are harmonious despite racial issues elsewhere.



4. Governance and Development (GD)

Focus: People's perception of the administration, economy and development of the country.

Subdimensions & Keywords:

1. **Economics:** management of prices, unemployment, wealth and the cost of living.
2. **Politics:** the role of the people's representatives, freedom of the media, functioning democracy.
3. **Crime:** police–community cooperation, crime reduction, anti-corruption.
4. **Public Service:** government aid, education, responsible governance.
5. **Public Facilities: infrastructure** and public transport are working well.
- **Community Management:** fair treatment of the government, multi-racial needs well managed, sensitivity of NGOs to local issues.



5. Level of Ethnicization (LE)

Focus: Appreciation of ethnic, religious and cultural identity.

Key Keywords:

1. Defend your own religion and culture.
2. Proud of the language and ethnic celebrations.
3. Open to technology and gender equality.
- Reject violence and accusations between races.



6. Social Deficit (Issues That Threatens Unity)

Keywords:

1. Ethnicities
2. Gender
3. Religion
4. Language
5. Education
6. Social class
7. Politics Federalism
8. The urban–rural disparities
9. Intergenerational gap
10. Media



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