



NATIONAL UNITY POLICY





**MINISTRY OF
NATIONAL UNITY**

NATIONAL UNITY POLICY

“Unity in Diversity”

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MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY

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MESSAGE FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

Assalamu 'Alaikum, Greetings of Prosperity and Unity,

The idea of unity for the people of this nation has a long and convoluted history. Every victory we secure today has not been a walk in the park.

To be where we are now, we have endured manifold challenges, thorns and thistles together. Naturally, this success has required sacrifice, understanding, cooperation and tolerance from all walks of life.

The key to our success is our **unity in diversity**. The ability of all the people to celebrate ethnic pluralism, religious diversity as well as rich culture and tradition is the bedrock of our strength.

However, we must never be lax because the unity we possess must be further strengthened so as to give no room for any disruption. Rifts that may result in disputes and tensions no matter how small, must be prudently dealt with so that they are not taken advantage of by anyone.

Accordingly, this National Unity Policy proves that unity and national integration will continue to be the Government's primary agenda. The document that has been developed with the Federal Constitution and *Rukun Negara* (National Tenets) at its core will act as a catalyst to Malaysia's endeavours to become a united, prosperous and dignified nation. This is also in line with the Shared Prosperity Vision (WKB) 2030.

Congratulations and well done to the Ministry of National Unity for the resolve to make this policy a reality. The challenge now is to translate it into a form of implementation that truly contributes to unity at the grassroots level. I sincerely hope that all Malaysians can embrace the spirit and embody the intentions contained in the National Unity Policy and work together for the success of this noble endeavour.

I pray that our country will continue to attain success upon success and remain strong as a united and harmonious nation. Flourishing and strengthening our unity in diversity.

TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD. YASSIN

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF NATIONAL UNITY



Assalamu 'Alaikum, Greetings of Prosperity and Unity,

The Ministry of National Unity that was re-established on 10 March, 2020, is entrusted to drive and lead the nation's unity agenda which is characterised by inclusiveness for the shared prosperity of the people. This agenda is deployed through composing and consolidating various unification efforts for the purpose of building, reinforcing and maintaining integration loci as platforms for fostering goodwill among the people.

The National Unity Policy is the primary umbrella for the nation's unity agenda which is based on the Constitution and *Rukun Negara* (National Tenets). This policy is long-term in nature and provides direction for all movement in the process of execution at all levels. Enabling and ensuring that the objectives of the National Unity Policy are eventually attained requires the close involvement of all parties and walks of life, beginning with Government agencies, the public sector, Non-Governmental Organisations, civil society groups and even Malaysians as individuals. The results of this success will enable us to preserve peace and strengthen the nation's harmony. This is actually an enormous responsibility that we must all shoulder together, as it is said, "many hands make light work."

The continuity of the National Unity Policy and its implementation is highly dependent on a structured and effective organisational engine and governance mechanism coupled with a feedback system to regularly monitor performance and accomplishment. Through the Department of National Unity and Integration (JPNIN), and the Malaysian Indian Transformation Unit (MITRA), this Ministry will continue to reinforce the mechanics of the unity engine. Trickle down from the district to grassroots community levels are various unity programmes, especially those by existing organisations such as activities by the executive units, namely the *Kawasan Rukun Tetangga* (KRT) (Neighbourhood Watch Area), *Rukun Negara* Secretariat (SRN) (Secretariat of the National Tenets), *Rukun Negara* Club (KRN), *Rakan Perpaduan* (Friends of Unity) as well as Unity Kindergarten and *Taska Genius Perpaduan* (Unity Genius Daycare Centre) that are located throughout the country.

DATUK HALIMAH BINTI MOHAMED SADIQUE



FOREWORD BY THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL UNITY

Greetings of Prosperity and Unity.

The unity of a multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural society is the key to peace, prosperity, stability and sustained national development. Without unity, the nation will not achieve

absolute stability, progress and lasting peace.

The privileges enjoyed by our nation are a clear indication that the formula for unity from the aspects of national development and progress is on the right track. We have a very high level of cooperation and tolerance among the peoples and ethnicities and creeds in Malaysia. The willingness of the people to celebrate diversity is an advantage we should be proud of.

Malaysian unity is increasingly evident as we band together to battle the spread of COVID-19 and end the epidemic. The solidarity shown by the people as the engine of unity in moments of crisis reflect the maturity of the people in comprehending the meaning of unity and social cohesion between the races.

The spirit of unity shown by the whole people engine has also caused the Ministry of National Unity to remain committed in producing the National Unity Policy even in a situation where the nation is focussed on controlling the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic. This is a pioneer effort in developing a specific policy for unity by the government. If all this time the elements of unity have been applied separately in other government policies, it is time for unity to have its own policy. Unity in Diversity is not merely a mantra uttered without meaning. This concept of unity must be understood, appreciated and taken to heart.

I call on all Malaysians who love the nation to continue cultivating unity as an innate part of daily life. Foster unity. Celebrate differences. Live to complement each other.

SENATOR DATO' SRI TI LIAN KER

FOREWORD BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY



Assalamu 'Alaikum, Greetings of Prosperity and Unity.

The National Unity Policy is a determined effort by the Ministry of National Unity to achieve our nation's aspirations of firm unity in a pluralistic society.

This is a pioneer effort in developing a specific policy of unity by the government. If all this time elements of unity have been applied separately in other government policies, it is time for unity to have its own policy.

The goal of this Policy is to shape a Malaysian nation that understands and appreciates the Federal Constitution as well as the *Rukun Negara* (National Tenets), developing a national identity with a sense of self and noble personality traits, as well as a people who value and practice unity.

The direction for the national unity agenda is determined based on three (3) principles and 12 strategies across sectors, public and private agencies as well as civil society. This policy should serve as a guide for all Malaysians in their respective roles and responsibilities in kindling the spirit of unity and love for the nation at the individual, family, and community levels.

Let us together cultivate unity and celebrate our diversity.

DATUK WAN SURAYA BINTI WAN MD. RADZI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The National Unity Policy (DPN) is a document of long-term strategies and continuous effort developed to determine the direction of national unity in fostering, strengthening and preserving unity among Malaysians. This policy acts as a catalyst for Malaysia to become a united, harmonious and prosperous nation. For a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society, unity must be the primary agenda in order to guarantee peace and sustainable development for the nation, and at the same time upholding the nation's sovereignty.

Central to the DPN's foundations and strategy are the Federal Constitution and the *Rukun Negara*. Both form the backbone of Malaysia's development and serve as a guide for all Government policies. The history and spirit behind the Federal Constitution and *Rukun Negara* must be appreciated and practiced by people from every walk of life.

This is also in line with the goals outlined under the Shared Prosperity Vision (WKB) 2030 to bring into existence a nation that is united, prosperous and proud through fair and equitable sharing of national prosperity at all levels of society without regard for income group, ethnicity or region.

The National Unity Policy is a continuous initiative by the Government in leading the unity agenda through the implementation of the three principles of unity and supported by 12 strategies in an effort to produce a patriotic, democratic and self-aware Malaysian nation; developing a national identity with common aspirations as well as reinforcing the ecosystem of national unity.

In addition to the foundations of unity and the strategies outlined in this policy, several enablers of unity that have been identified also contribute to the prosperity of the people and indirectly affect unity.

This policy's strategies are supported by the National Unity Blueprint 2021-2030, which determines the vision of national unity and the aspirations of national unity that are to be attained within 10 years and translates it into implementation via the National Unity Action Plan (PTPN). The PTPN outlines strategies and specific programmes/activities that are clearly and cohesively arranged in the short, medium and long-term across sectors and agencies and determines measurement targets, as well as desired outcomes.



NATIONAL UNITY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

THE EVOLUTION OF UNITY

The divide and conquer policy of the British colonials resulted in gaps between the ethnicities in Malaysia, separated in terms of demographics, economics, politics, language, education and daily life, and this had an effect on unity in the country.

The events of 13 May 1969 spurred several government efforts and commitments to address the issue of unity until the proclamation of the *Rukun Negara* on 31 August 1970. In the initial stages, the steps taken were in the form of immediate action aimed at preserving political stability, national security and harmony. Various measures and actions were undertaken at that time to foster unity among the people, including encouraging social interaction emphasising participation by multiple ethnic communities in the sponsored events and celebrations.

The initial focus was on bridging the economic gap that exists between ethnic groups through the New Economic Policy (NEP) and as a result the NEP has become the framework for fortifying unity in Malaysia. Beginning with the Second Malaysia Plan (RMKe-2) until the following Malaysia Plan, the government has incorporated elements of social cohesion and integration into every policy introduced.

Previously, the Government sought to create social cohesion through different national policies among which were the National Education Policy, the National Social Policy, the National Cultural Policy, the National Security Policy and the National Community Policy. These policies had a positive impact on bringing about peace and prosperity, however rifts in certainty between ethnicities still exist.

Through the formulation of a National Unity Policy, this policy serves as an umbrella policy for all governmental efforts and commitments to strengthening national unity and integration. Today, there are many new challenges affecting Malaysian unity, especially among the different ethnic and religious groups. This situation is even more formidable given the phenomena of globalisation, technological advancement and borderless communication, increasing human mobility, as well as a racially-based political environment.

Through the National Unity Policy, the issues and challenges that have been identified will be studied and refined from various aspects to formulate the best solution. The policy determines the direction taken to foster, strengthen and preserve unity through specific strategies so that unity becomes an integral part of culture and daily life, recognised, valued, and dreamed of by every Malaysian.

RETRACING THE JOURNEY TO UNITY

1969

THE MAY 13 INCIDENT

Racial conflict spurs government's efforts to address the issue of unity.

1970

RUKUN NEGARA

Proclaimed on 31 August 1970 as the national philosophy in achieving unity.

1971

NEW ECONOMIC POLICY

Becomes the framework to strengthen unity through the restructuring of society.

2003

NATIONAL SOCIAL POLICY

Aimed at creating a society that is developed in social, economic and technological aspects.

2017

NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

Upholds the nation's core values to ensure Malaysia endures, is safe and sovereign.

2019

NATIONAL COMMUNITY POLICY

Creating sustainable communities and generations through inclusive community development.

2019

NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY

Creating a national culture.

2021

NATIONAL UNITY POLICY

The umbrella policy that directs the government's roadmap for strengthening national unity and integration.

THE CONCEPT OF UNITY

Social cohesion is an expression and concept used by academics to describe Malaysia's experience in the aspect of ethnic relations since 13 May 1969. Hitherto, on average Malaysian society, which comprises multi-racial and multi-ethnic people groups, has existed in peace, stability and harmony due to the existence of social bonding that has been in place since before.

The existence of social cohesion does not mean there are no differences and conflicts within a society. Differences and conflicts persist because they involve relations between people of diverse backgrounds and education. In fact, social cohesion and national integration is a prerequisite in paving the way to the ultimate goal of unity.

Unity is generally defined as equality and single-mindedness in shaping a national identity such as one nation and one language. Taking into account the context of a nation with ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural diversity, the concept of unity emphasised is "Unity in Diversity".

This is because historically, Malaysians acknowledge that their society is a pluralistic one. From the 1970s till now, there has been much change in demographics in terms of the population's ethnic breakdown. At the same time there exist various schooling systems, namely mainstream schools, vernacular schools, religious schools and international schools. All individuals retain their respective religious beliefs, ethnic identities and cultures.

Because of these differences, efforts toward creating unity in Malaysia must be complemented by and based on sustained integration efforts.

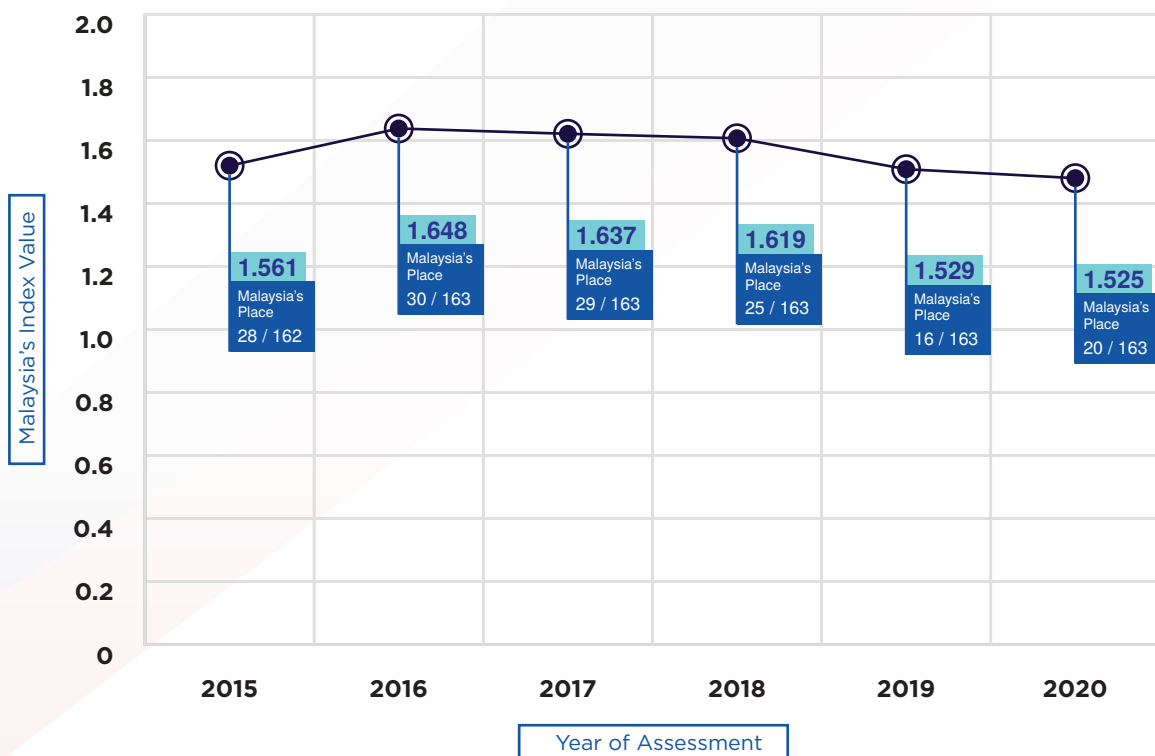
MEASUREMENT OF MALAYSIA'S PROSPERITY

International Level

Global Peace Index (GPI) 2020

The Global Peace Index (GPI) is an international index produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). The focus of this index is directed toward understanding aspects of security, peace and conflict occurring within a country and at an international level based on studies of levels of peace in 163 countries.

Malaysia's place based on GPI (2015 – 2020)

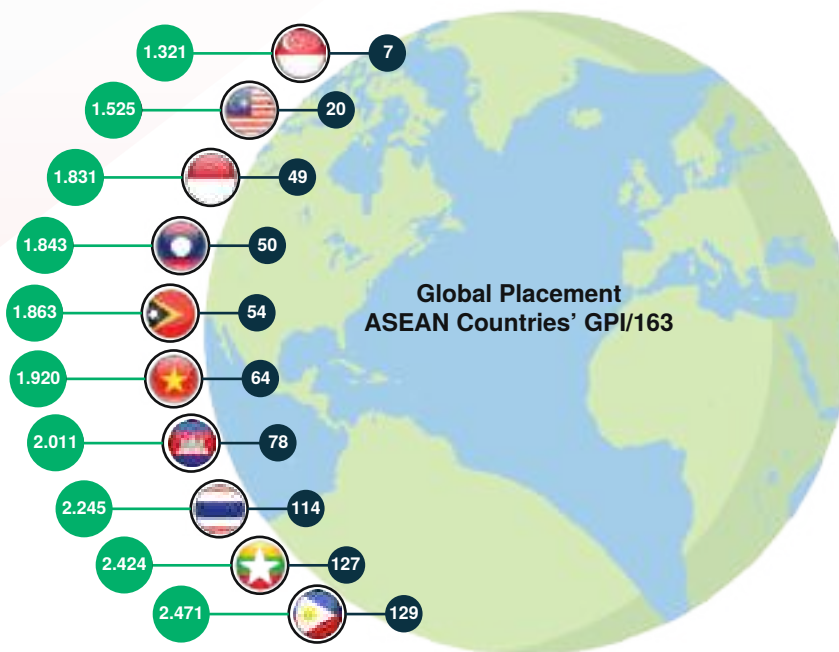


Note: On a scale of 1 to 5, with the greatest index value being 1

Based on this index, although Malaysia's position dropped by four places from the preceding year, there was an improvement in terms of the index value by 0.004 points. Among the indicators measured were the quantity and intensity of in-country conflicts, political stability, perspectives on crime and violent demonstrations. Perspectives on peace such as feelings of self-respect and freedom in life were also measured.

Source: Global Peace Index Report 2015-2020

The top 20 countries place in the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2020



Malaysia's GPI placement among ASEAN countries

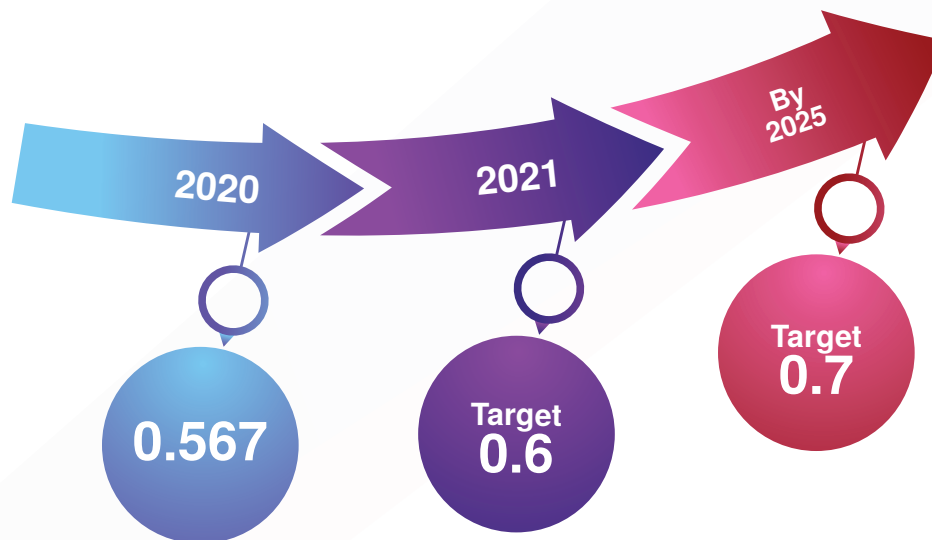
Source: Global Peace Index 2020 Report

MEASUREMENT OF MALAYSIA'S PROSPERITY

National Level

National Unity Index Report (IPNas) 2020

The National Unity Index (IPNas) report is a comprehensive model of measurement at the national level using empirical and systematic methods to comprehend and explain community dynamics in Malaysia. The IPNas is an index serving as an indicator/benchmark in measuring the level of social cohesion and national unity attained in Malaysia.



Values and Projection of the National Unity Index (IPNas)

Source: IPNas 2018

The 2020 IPNas value is 0.567. This index value is high based on the scale from 0 to 1 declared by Cohen (1988) as an appropriate indicator for the study of human behavioural sciences.

The results of this study indicate that the degree of unity in Malaysia is strong and sturdy even though social deficits still exist. Unification efforts need to be implemented on an ongoing basis with focus on specific issues from time to time.

The 2020 IPNas value will serve as a base or benchmark for measuring the level of unity in society in subsequent years. The IPNas is currently in the process of upgrading by updating the questionnaire's instruments and analytical constructs to ensure that measurement of the degree of unity in Malaysia may be carried out more efficiently and accurately.



NATIONAL UNITY POLICY

**THE ISSUES
AND
CHALLENGES
OF UNITY**

SOCIAL DEFICITS

In general, issues and challenges that often affect society are inaccurately pegged as being problems of unity. Through several comprehensive consultation sessions, the various issues and challenges that have been raised by Malaysians may be grouped into 10 facets of social deficit, namely:



SOCIAL DEFICITS

ETHNICITY

Ethnic diversity is often seen as the main obstacle to unity. In reality, unity is something that has to be prudently managed and enhanced on an ongoing basis through various mechanisms such as interaction and social networking at both the inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic levels.

RELIGION

Religious differences are wrongly perceived as being barriers hindering unity in society due to being viewed in an inaccurate context. Lack of sensitivity and understanding between those of different faiths affects relations and interaction within society.

SOCIAL CLASS

It cannot be denied that every social system has its own hierarchy of social classes caused by ethnic structure, ancestry, occupation, position or even the economy. This should not hinder unity as individual social classes in society complement each other in terms of roles and responsibilities.

Unity within the social classes must be managed by creating integration loci that fulfil the needs and goals of society encompassing social class.

EDUCATION

The existence of various school systems in the country (such as vernacular schools, religious schools and international schools) is often understood to be a hindrance in efforts to foster unity among the people when it is viewed in the context of ethnic segregation.

In actual fact, the unity education system established and put into place will be effective if the content, methods and programmes for the appreciation of unity in every institution and educational system in the nation are consistent, beginning from pre-school all the way up to tertiary education.

LANGUAGE

The Malay language (*Bahasa Melayu*) was designated as the national language in the Federal Constitution with the purpose of becoming the means for interaction among people of all races within the country.

The real issues and challenges in the context of unity is the implementation of national language education in all institutions and at all academic levels so that all the people are able to speak, write and understand each other across ethnicities in a form of unified thought and identity as Malaysians. The result of this education is then able in turn to mobilise the people to apply the language as a means for attaining unity in various aspects of life.

GENERATION GAP

Malaysian society today comprises many generations from all walks of life structured in the context of age, education, occupation, ideology and culture, resulting in friction in terms of values, mores, sense of identity and tolerance levels. This generation gap is noticeably widening. The issues and challenges affecting unity certainly differ between generations and clearly need appropriate approaches rooted in the life experiences of each generation.

GENDER

Although gender issues are often presented as the difference in equal rights between men and women, in the context of unity the matter of gender should be considered in the scope of roles and the capacity of men and women to advance the unity agenda at the individual, family and community levels.

As an example, career women and full-time housewives are certainly able to play a part in and possess the capacity in different areas to foster unity. The ability to segregate gender roles and capacity in the context of true unity enables the shaping of societal development more dynamically.

THE POLITICS OF FEDERALISM

Administrative and legislative systems at the Federal and state levels must be considered from the aspects of political, economical and social boundaries because there are matters determined to be state-level affairs (such as religion and land).

The politics of federalism emerge as issues holding unity back when ethnic issues are debated in the context of Constitutional rights. Therefore, the politics of federalism must be scrutinised and deliberated in the context of actual dilemmas. Leaders at every level also play an important role as catalysts for unity.

URBAN-RURAL SPACE

Urban and rural spaces are often differentiated through physical and infrastructural limitations that have shaped the population's social characteristics and economic activity. Within the context of unity, actual issues and challenges transcend these limitations and must be regarded in the willingness and capability of individuals, families and communities to harness urban-rural spaces to reinforce unity, in line with there being differences in needs and challenges between urban and rural areas.

MEDIA

The rapid dissemination of information is a major challenge faced by all countries. The misuse of mass and digital media by irresponsible parties can threaten stability and unity. As such, more effective communications and better law enforcement are required to offset the negative effects of rapidly-developing media technology that is becoming an increasingly greater challenge to the realm of unity today.



NATIONAL UNITY POLICY

**DEVELOPMENTAL
FOUNDATIONS OF
THE NATIONAL UNITY
POLICY**

DEVELOPMENTAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL UNITY POLICY

The National Unity Policy was developed with the Federal Constitution and *Rukun Negara* (National Tenets) at its core.

FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

The Federal Constitution of Malaysia is the supreme law of the country and has become foundational to the formation of the nation as well as the identity of the Malaysian people. The history of the Federal Constitution's codification must be appreciated and understood by all the people because it covers tolerance, compromise and sacrifices by all parties and is based on the process of reciprocal agreement or power sharing among the various ethnic groups.

Among the five (5) basic tenets (*grundnorm*) that have been agreed on in the formation of the integration platform is the acknowledgement of a few fundamentals decreed In the Federal Constitution, namely:

- ◆ Article 3(1): Islam is the religion of the Federation, however other religions can be practiced in a peaceful manner anywhere within the Federation.
- ◆ Article 152(1): The Malay Language (*Bahasa Melayu*) is both the National language and official language, however the mother-tongues of other races can be taught and spoken.
- ◆ Article 153: The privileged position of the Malay people and indigenous peoples of Sabah and Sarawak is recognised, however the interests of other races are also protected.
- ◆ Article 181: The sovereignty of Malay rulers is upheld.
- ◆ Section III: Citizenship rights are accorded to those who qualify according to the Federal Constitution.

THE RUKUN NEGARA (NATIONAL TENETS)

The *Rukun Negara* was proclaimed on 31 August 1970 by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong during the 13th anniversary of Malaysia's independence following the events of 13 May 1969. The *Rukun Negara* is an ideology to standardise understanding among varied ethnic groups with the main purpose of developing robust unity.

The ideals and aspirations contained in the *Rukun Negara* are clearly the key to the people's harmony and unity for Malaysia's success and stability. This forms the basis for the National Unity Policy.

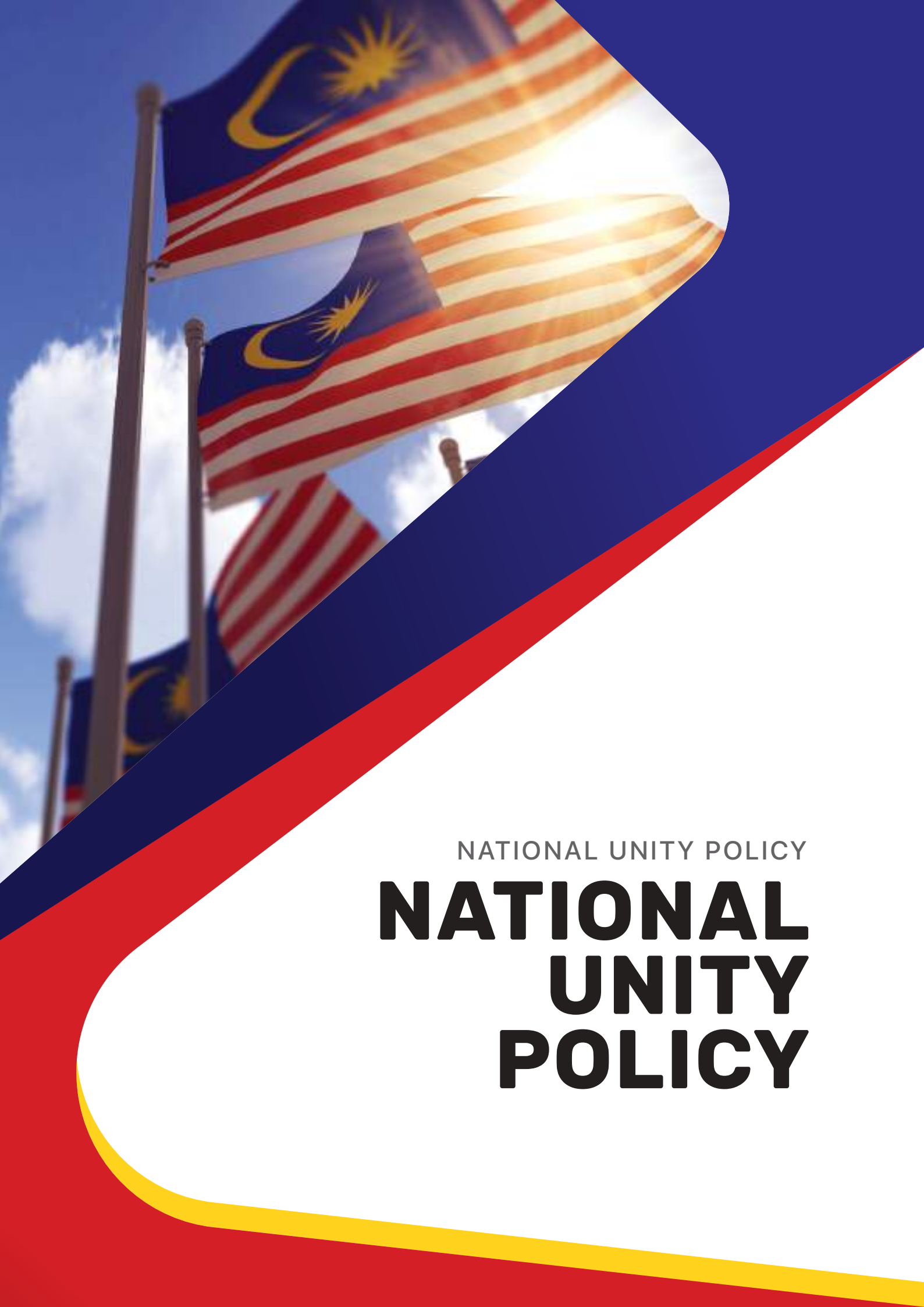
RUKUN NEGARA (NATIONAL TENETS)

Whereas our Country, Malaysia nurtures the ambitions of:

- Achieving a more perfect unity amongst the whole of her society;
- Preserving a democratic way of life;
- Creating a just society where the prosperity of the country can be enjoyed together in a fair and equitable manner;
- Guaranteeing a liberal approach towards her rich and varied cultural traditions; and
- Building a progressive society that will make use of science and modern technology.

We, the citizens of Malaysia, pledge our united efforts to attain these ends guided by these principles:

- BELIEF IN GOD
- LOYALTY TO KING AND COUNTRY
- SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION
- RULE OF LAW
- COURTESY AND MORALITY



NATIONAL UNITY POLICY

**NATIONAL
UNITY
POLICY**

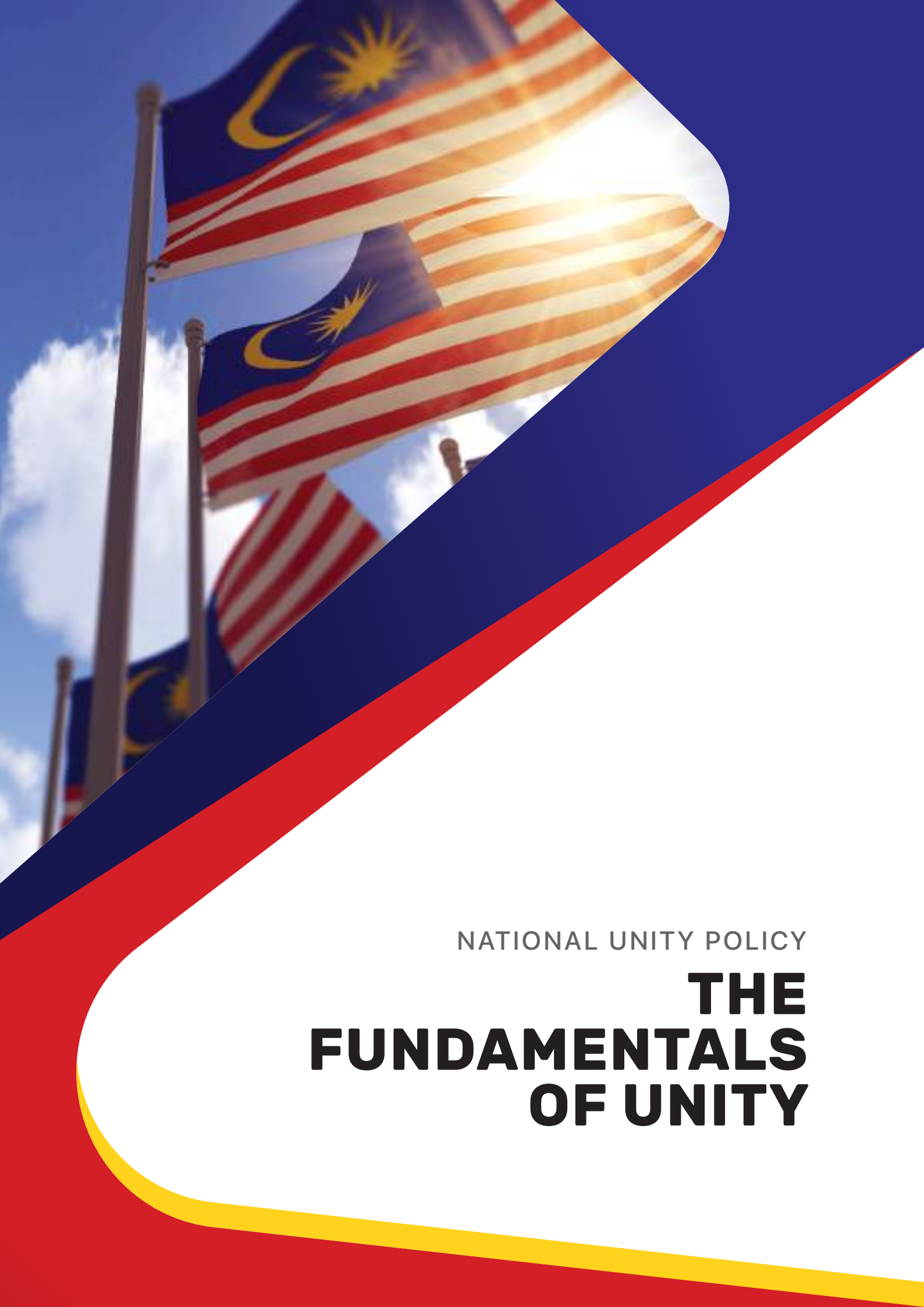
POLICY STATEMENT

The National Unity Policy is the umbrella policy outlining continued efforts to foster, strengthen and preserve unity among the people through the concept of “**Unity in Diversity**” to preserve multiracial harmony in this country.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the National Unity Policy are:





NATIONAL UNITY POLICY

**THE
FUNDAMENTALS
OF UNITY**

NATIONAL UNITY POLICY



PRINCIPLE 01 PATRIOTISM AND DEMOCRACY

STRATEGY:

1. To increase literacy, understanding and appreciation of the **Federal Constitution** and the *Rukun Negara* as a foundation of daily life.
2. To increase understanding and appreciation of **Malaysian history**.
3. To strengthen **national integration**.



PRINCIPLE 02 NATIONAL IDENTITY

STRATEGY :

1. To reinforce the role of **language** as a **medium of unity integration**.
2. To strengthen understanding of various ethnic groups' **religion, culture, and customs**.
3. To shape a society of **exceptional character, integrity and noble morals**.



PRINCIPLE 03 THE ECOSYSTEM OF UNITY

STRATEGI :

1. To establish **efficient communication** to increase social awareness within society.
2. To maintain, build and strengthen unity's **integration locus**.
3. To empower the unity engine through **strategic collaboration**.
4. To establish and empower the **institutions of family and community**.
5. To improve **law enforcement** and the efficacy of **monitoring** mechanisms.
6. To reinforce the role of **leaders** as **catalysts for unity**.

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF UNITY



01
PATRIOTISM
AND
DEMOCRACY



02
NATIONAL
IDENTITY



03
THE
ECOSYSTEM
OF UNITY

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 01

Patriotism and Democracy



STRATEGY

1. To increase literacy, understanding and appreciation of the Federal Constitution and the *Rukun Negara* as a foundation of daily life.
2. To increase understanding and appreciation of Malaysian history.
3. To strengthen national integration.

Patriotism refers to **feelings of love for the country** that are characterised by **obedience to the laws and unwavering loyalty** driven by desiring the best for the country. This spirit must be nurtured and cultivated from the very beginning and it is closely intertwined with the maturity of democracy among the people.

People who have a sound patriotic spirit will carry out their **responsibilities** as Malaysians to **maintain national harmony, peace and prosperity, wherever they may be**. A **mature democracy** means embodying the essence of loving the country as well as **understanding** and appreciating the Federal Constitution in **carrying out the national democratic system**.

Therefore, the people's **grasp** of knowledge and **understanding** with regard to **Malaysian history, the Federal Constitution and the *Rukun Negara*** must be bolstered through lifelong learning. Efforts to strengthen national integration between states and territories from the aspect of ethnic diversity as well as an understanding of culture and customs must be established.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 01

Patriotism and Democracy

Strategy 1:

To Increase Literacy, Understanding and Appreciation of the Federal Constitution and the *Rukun Negara* as a Foundation of Daily Life



A robust mechanism needs to be established both at the school level and at institutions of higher learning to instil and strengthen the patriotic spirit among students and scholars. The main aim is to **increase awareness and practice the principles of the *Rukun Negara*** in daily life as part of the efforts to develop a society with a sense of identity, vision, dignity, and ethics.

Increasing the level of **democratic literacy** grounded in an **understanding of the Federal Constitution and appreciation of the *Rukun Negara*** will give rise to Malaysians who are mature in their politicising and give voice to their opinions. Emphasis should be given to formal education that **stresses an understanding of the Federal Constitution and an appreciation for the *Rukun Negara***. This approach is tailored to the degree of students' learning from school level till institutions of higher learning as well as through informal education through lifelong learning. The essence of the *Rukun Negara* must be applied at the early stages of education.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 01

Patriotism and Democracy

Strategy 2:

To Increase Understanding and Appreciation of Malaysian History



Malaysians who understand and appreciate the nation's history will be more responsible in carrying out their respective roles in order that the unity built on past sacrifices can be preserved. Balanced education and sharing of national history, such as the history of the establishment of Malaysia, independence as well as the 1963 Malaysia Agreement are capable of enhancing personal identity and the patriotic spirit while protecting the rights of every Malaysian.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 01

Patriotism and Democracy

Strategy 3:

To Strengthen National Integration



Efforts to narrow the differences and encourage the process of integration within each region and state as well as among the various ethnicities must be stepped up in order to reinforce national unity and integration. In particular the gap between Peninsula and Sabah and Sarawak, in terms of development and accessibility as well as access to welfare, must be resolved together.

Strong national unity and integration requires the might of community relations centred on high levels of tolerance and understanding that will eventually give rise to a united Malaysian people. The process of national integration undertaken will not erode the unique characteristics of the respective ethnic groups.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 02

National Identity



STRATEGY

1. To reinforce the **role of language** as a **medium of unity integration**.
2. To strengthen **understanding** of various ethnic groups' **religion, culture, and customs**.
3. To shape a society of **exceptional character, integrity and noble morals**.

The mission to build a successful nation must go hand-in-hand with efforts to **reinforce unity, single-mindedness and social cohesion** within ethnic and religious diversity as well as the multifarious cultures and customs we adhere to.

Malaysia employs a **unique approach** to constructing and **reengineering national identity** while ensuring that inter-ethnic relations are maintained. As stated in the Shared Vision of Prosperity (WKB) 2030:

“

Unity via the nation-state is a society that understands, respects and is responsible for ensuring Malaysia continues to develop in line with fair, equitable and inclusive economic distribution for all.

”

The role of the **national language**, as established under **Article 152 of the Federal Constitution** continues to be upheld and respected as the language that reflects the national identity. A national language is able to secure the ties of unity of a multi-racial nation as the **primary lingua franca**. **Islam as the Federal Religion** is established under Article 3(1). However other religions can be practiced in peace and harmony.

The **complexity of cultures and customs** should be celebrated and not be an obstacle in creating a sense of togetherness and reinforcing inter-ethnic bonds. This **understanding and acceptance of diverse cultures** is of utmost important to be inculcated in each individual.

Developing and establishing **strong character and personality** is an agenda emphasised in the shaping of national identity. This is because the desired national identity is one of **a nation united not just in diversity, but a nation with character and traits to be proud of**.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 02

National Identity

Strategy 1:

To Reinforce the Role of Language as a Medium of Unity Integration



Proficiency in the Malay language must be emphasised in the early stages of childhood education and continued through primary and secondary schools, and also made a mandatory subject in institutions of higher learning. Habitually communicating in a language understood by all is a sign that the community is receptive in efforts toward togetherness and love for the country for unity's sake.

To strengthen integration among the various ethnic groups, efforts as well as encouragement to learn the various local vernacular languages must be emphasised in order to bolster inter-ethnic interaction.



THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 02

National Identity

Strategy 2:

To Strengthen Understanding of Various Ethnic Groups' Religion, Culture, and Customs



Efforts to instil and increase the community's understanding of different religions can shape and unlock a more expansive breadth of interaction between peoples of different faiths.

An understanding and appreciation of various ethnic cultures and customs should be unveiled and developed in early childhood. Educational institutions play a part in providing a **conducive environment, encouraging mingling**, as well as **raising awareness** of the diversity of culture and customs among its students.

The private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) also play an important role in **highlighting, promoting and mainstreaming cultural diversity**.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 02

National Identity

Strategy 3:

To Shape a Society of Exceptional Character, Integrity and Noble Standards



The shaping of a society with exceptional character, integrity and noble standards requires continuous effort to ensure the establishment of a nation of peoples that are robust, responsible and uphold national sovereignty, regardless of where they are.



THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 03

The Ecosystem of Unity



STRATEGY

1. To establish **efficient communication** to increase social awareness in society.
2. To maintain, build and strengthen unity's **integration locus**.
3. To empower the unity engine through **strategic collaboration**.
4. To establish and empower the **institutions of family and community**.
5. To improve **law enforcement** and the efficacy of **monitoring** mechanisms.
6. To reinforce the role of **leaders** as **catalysts for unity**.

The ecosystem of unity provides a **conductive environment and space** to encourage and sow the seeds of unity in society by taking into account challenges, environment and global influences. This role and responsibility must be enacted by various parties including political leaders, government agencies, the private sector, media professionals, NGOs, civil society and the community as a whole.

Every component within an ecosystem is interconnected and requires the cooperation of various parties. Aspects of communication, integration locus, administration of the unity engine, family and community, laws as well as the role of leaders must be given attention in the creation of an environment that embodies unity.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 03

The Ecosystem of Unity

Strategy 1:

**To Establish
Efficient
Communication to
Increase Social
Awareness in
Society**



There are two aspects to this strategy, these being the **ethical use of media platforms** as well as the **strengthening of communication in the area of effectiveness** in dissemination of correct information.

Rapid development and media technology must run parallel with efforts to regulate and educate media professionals in the responsibility of ensuring the ethical use of media and not allowing it to be taken advantage of for the purpose of undermining unity.

Drawing on the advantages of social media as the **medium for disseminating accurate information**, the government, media professionals, the private sector and civil society must **each creatively and effectively play their part as agents of unity**.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 03

The Ecosystem of Unity

Strategy 2:

To Maintain, Build and Strengthen Unity's Integration Locus



The **integration locus** is an abstract and physical space that **brings together various stakeholders to collaborate in developing a solution**. Integration loci are a dynamic medium for managing conflicts and misunderstandings present in the community. Community integration efforts require the continued construction and reinforcement of integration loci.

Malaysians also must to have a strong **spirit of altruism** to demonstrate their awareness of their respective **roles and responsibilities** within the **community**. Community involvement, especially that of the younger generation in welfare and charitable activities not only has a positive impact on the self, but also the local populace in need of attention and assistance.

Other social endeavours such as culture and sports within the community also need to be carried out more vigorously as integration loci enhancing social interaction across ethnicities, religions and social classes.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 03

The Ecosystem of Unity

Strategy 3:

To Empower the Unity Engine through Strategic Collaboration



Fortifying the **implementation mechanisms and unity engine** is through the establishment of a governance system that is inclusive at all levels down to grassroots. This is to ensure that policies and action plans can be implemented effectively. At the same time, **cooperation and more integrated efforts** between federal and state government agencies at central, state and district levels must be bolstered.

Strategic and creative collaboration with the private sectors and NGOs as well as with civil society must be increased in terms of leverage on the expertise of all parties through **effective delivery of service** to the target groups. Each community faces different issues and challenges pertaining to unity. Therefore, methods of intervention and problem-solving must be varied accordingly and appropriately.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 03

The Ecosystem of Unity

Strategy 4:

To Establish and Empower the Institutions of Family and Community



Consolidating up the **institution of family** is crucial in the formation of an individual's personality, which is a fundamental unit in a developed and sustainable society. To ensure that each family reaches its potential, family well-being and **active participation in the community** must be strengthened.

All family members must fulfil their respective roles and responsibilities within the family and community, beginning by setting a good example to the children and local society. The role of each family member and gender is essential in the contribution of different values based on their respective experiences and capabilities at the individual, family and community levels.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 03

The Ecosystem of Unity

Strategy 5:

To Improve Law Enforcement and the Efficacy of Monitoring Mechanisms



Governance of the country based on the principle of the **rule of law** has guaranteed the people's right to liberties as stated in the Federal Constitution. Every Malaysian must abide by the laws in force as well as understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

For example from the aspect of unity, national harmony is preserved through the provision of laws in force such as the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 [Act 588], the Penal Code [Act 547], the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 [Act 301] and the Sedition Act 1948 [Act 15]. The matter must be addressed by those responsible through transparent and fair enforcement, without regard for ethnicity, religion or social class.

THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY 03

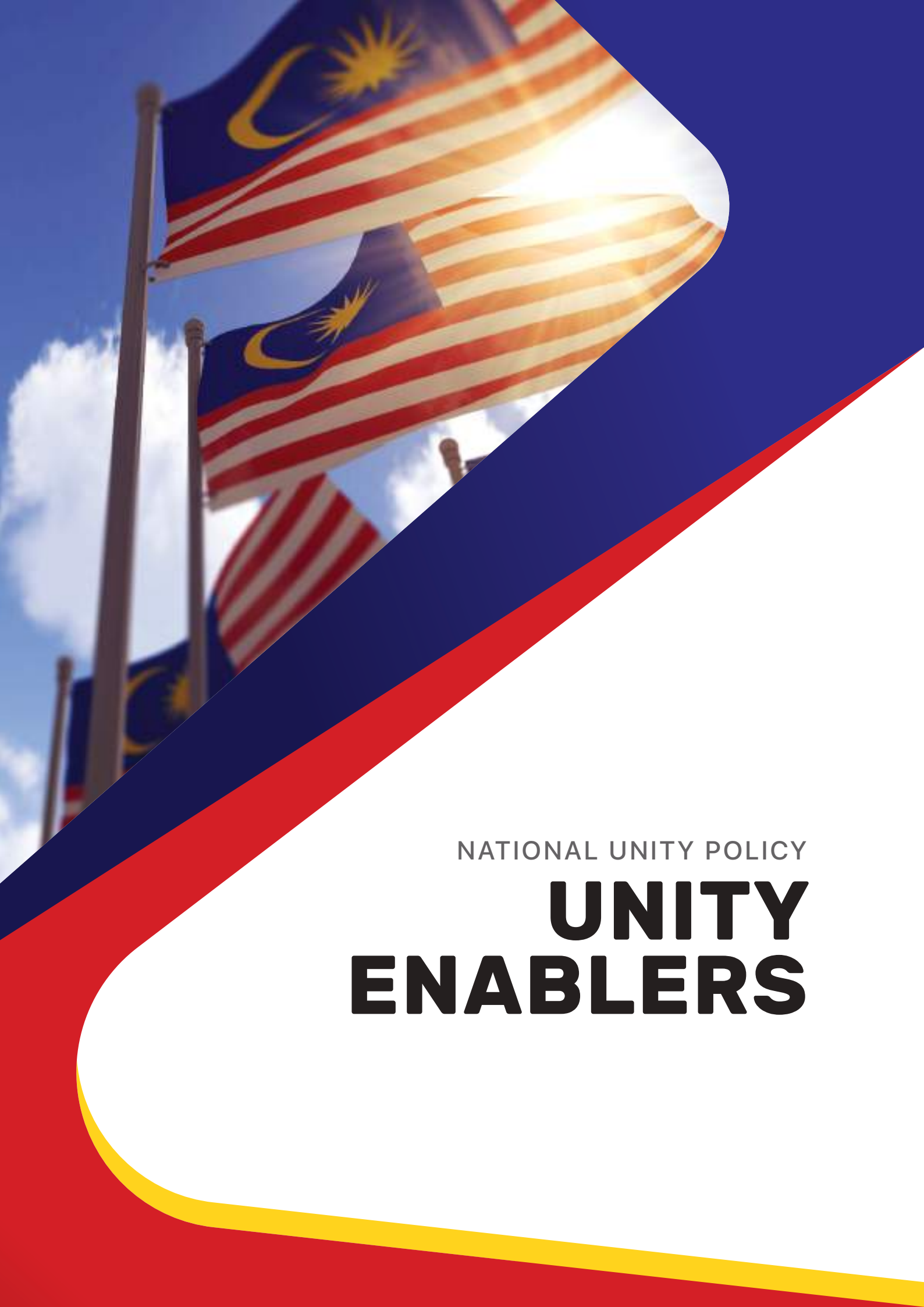
The Ecosystem of Unity

Strategy 6:

To Reinforce the Role of Leaders as Catalysts for Unity



The influence and role of leaders as catalysts for unity cannot be denied. Accordingly, all leadership from federal, state, district to grassroots levels, as well as leaders within an organisation must be exemplary role models that set an example for the people and the community. The nation also needs to move toward a political landscape that promotes unity and encourages the practice of mutual respect and tolerance among society.



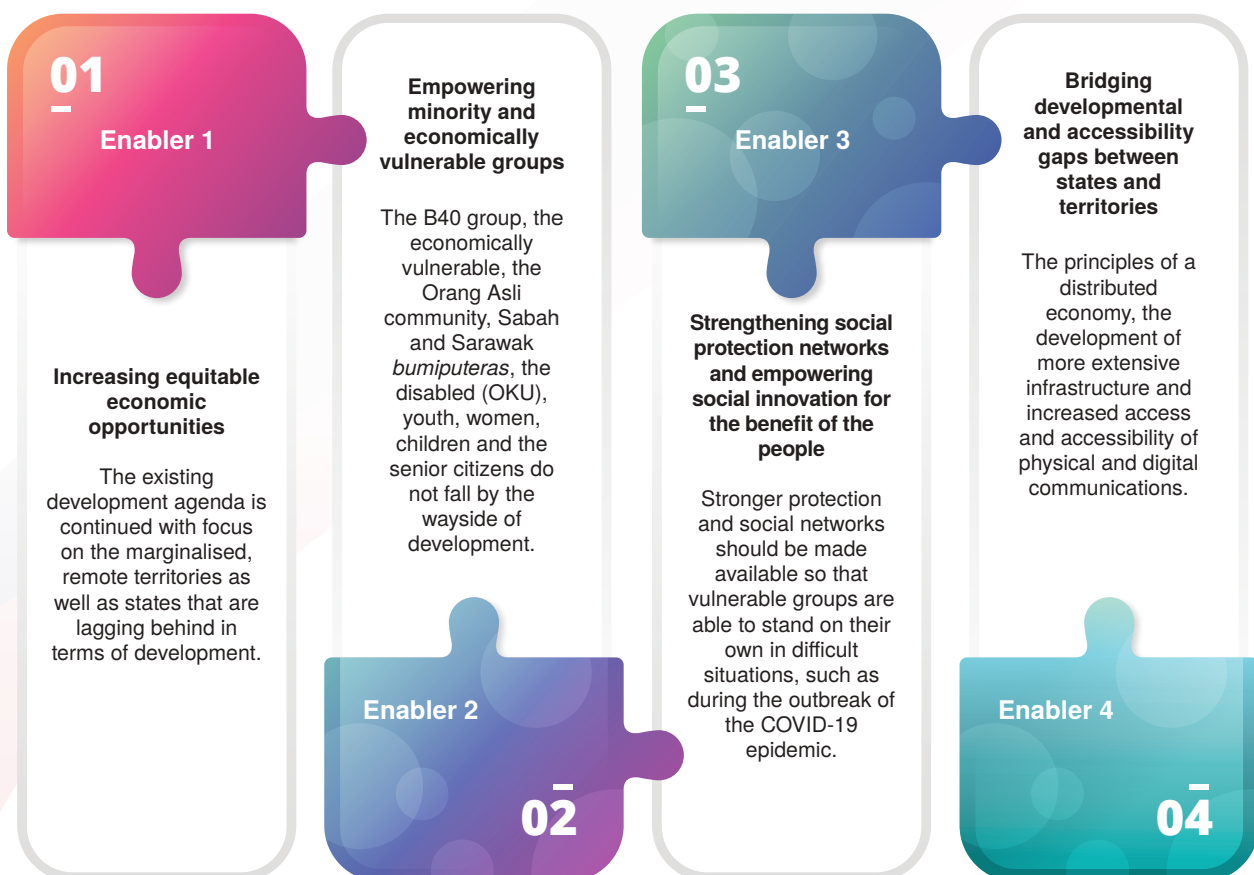
NATIONAL UNITY POLICY

UNITY ENABLERS

UNITY ENABLERS

In addition to the fundamentals of unity and the strategies outlined in this policy, there are several **unity enablers** that have identified as being **contributors to the prosperity** of the people and indirectly **have an effect on unity**.

Balanced and inclusive development in the effort to bridge the socio-economic gap drives national unity and integration. The gap between territories, cities and provinces must be bridged in order that no one falls by the wayside. These matters are seen as **important** enablers to be **taken into account and given attention** by ministries and organisations jointly responsible for the formation of a united Malaysian nation.



UNITY ENABLERS

Enabler 1: Increasing equitable economic opportunities

Compensating for **socio-economic differences between ethnicities and regions** must be implemented irrespective of any parties' interest. The development agenda continues with a focus on the **marginalised, remote territories and states that are lagging behind in terms of development.**

Enabler 2: Empowering minority and economically vulnerable groups

Inclusion is one of the key principles in the national development plan in order to ensure that **no group is left behind** in the development process. These groups include the B40 group, the economically vulnerable, the Orang Asli community, Sabah and Sarawak *bumiputeras*, the disabled (OKU), youth, women, children, and senior citizens. Each of these has specific needs that must be met in order to **attain their full potential as well as increase opportunities for their active contribution** to national economy and society.



UNITY ENABLERS

Enabler 3: Strengthening social protection networks and empowering social innovation

In order to ensure that the marginalised are not left out in the tide of development, the **social protection** network must be reinforced. This involves various strategic measures to prevent, manage and overcome the challenges the people face through social protection programmes, as well as programmes to increase the capacities and capabilities of the target groups. **More robust protection and social networks** should be provided so that **vulnerable groups** are able to stand on their own in difficult situations, such as during the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Upgrading the **service delivery system for welfare services and social assistance** to the needy should also be carried out in a **targeted** manner in order to be more effective and **reduce leakage**. **Targeted interventions** must be applied to different focus groups to enable the execution of proper planning in order that they no longer continue to rely on Government assistance.

In the preparation of **sustainable long-term solutions**, investment in **social innovation** is crucial. Social innovation comprises **ideas, initiatives, projects or programmes by individuals, the public sector and NGOs to resolve social concerns**.

Government agencies and NGOs should **collaborate and play their roles** as well as contribute their **expertise**. This is to ensure **access and for the mechanisms of social assistance** to be implemented with **transparency and greater effectiveness**. Data sharing between Federal and state Government agencies is also crucial for resolving social concerns and **avoiding overlap and leakage**.



UNITY ENABLERS

Enabler 4: Bridging developmental and accessibility gaps between states and territories

Development gaps exist not only between **territories**, but also between **states**. As stated in the Shared Prosperity Vision (WKB) 2030, to ensure that **prosperity** can be shared by all, the economy and development must transcend geographical boundaries in order that growth is more fairly and comprehensively distributed and experienced by the people.

The principles of a distributed economy, the development of a broader infrastructure as well as **increased access and physical accessibility and digital communication** are among the aspects that require major focus in the development of the country toward sustainable unity.



CONCLUSION

The National Unity Policy outlines the fundamentals of unity that need to be understood and put into practice. Through this policy, all parties must **cooperate** to ensure that the formulated strategy may be successfully implemented to **attain its goal of fostering, strengthening and preserving national unity**.

As a country possessing unique qualities, unity is a prominent agenda to **ensure sustained national development**. Unity is not something static that may be acquired in a complete sense but something that must be **continuously cultivated, nurtured and reinforced**. Unity requires complete commitment by all parties, namely government agencies, the private sector, civil society and the populace as a whole.

The emphasis and approach in the implementation of this policy is in line with the government's policies and aspirations to build a nation that is **developed, peaceful, prosperous, with integrity and is unified as well as globally recognised**.

GLOSSARY

Social deficits are defined as deficiencies in a social context requiring continuous collaborative action to increase the levels of cohesion. These deficiencies are caused by the gap in differences of perspectives and opinions between different groups beginning from individuals, to families and society.

National integration is a dynamic process bringing together communities across states and territories to form a nation with an identity rooted in the Federal Constitution and the Rukun Negara.

Social gaps refer to issues that must be unravelled from time to time to improve social cohesion in a multi-ethnic society.

Coherence is defined as an integrated state of peace, stability, prosperity and well-being existing in a multi-ethnic society but with social gaps that must still be dealt with constantly.

Minority and vulnerable groups denote the remote ethnic communities, the indigenous peoples in rural areas and the poor who feel totally alienated from the mainstream community.

Mediation refers to arbitration, a process of resolving a dispute between two deadlocked parties through use of an intermediary (third party).

Unification refers to the act of uniting, a continuous effort to bring together individuals, families and communities from all walks of life.

Unity refers to the desired unification of society that is the ultimate goal of a multi-ethnic nation.

The *integration locus* is an abstract and physical space that brings together various stakeholders to collaborate in developing a solution. The formula for building and implementing an integration locus employs negotiation, deliberation and mediation. An iconic example of an integration locus is the Federal Constitution, while physical integration loci might be festivals and celebrations, sports, food and such that are capable of bringing together and involve social interaction between people from various walks of life.

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