

# Contents

Foreword.....	ii
Executive Summary .....	1
CSO Platform for Reform: A Brief Introduction .....	2
First 100 Days of the Unity Government.....	2
1. Governance Leadership Reform .....	3
2. Institutions Reform .....	7
3. Parliament and State Legislative Assembly Reform .....	11
4. Key Law/Policies Reform .....	13
Recommendations for the Consideration of the Government .....	16
1. Governance Leadership Reform .....	16
2. Institutions Reform .....	17
3. Parliament & State Legislative Assembly Reforms.....	18
4. Key Law/Policies Reform .....	20
Conclusion .....	23
References .....	24

## **Foreword**

The CSO Platform believes that coordinating our efforts according to four key focus areas would strengthen the Platform's approach by facilitating cooperation with the government of the day through more informed proposals or suggestions.

CSO Platform's advocacy can more be seen through these holistic reforms:

1. Governance Leadership Reform
2. Institutions Reform
3. Parliament and State Legislative Assembly Reform, and
4. Key Law/Policies Reform.

The 100 Days of the Unity Government Report is an observatory analysis on these four core reforms, aiming to present the Malaysia Madani government's achievements, and/or works on reforms that are not immediately seen. It is hoped that the recommendations provided will be seen as strategic points for improvements, as well as to take into account the views of the civil society on the gaps in the reform agenda.

We would like to accord our appreciation to members of the CSO Platform for Reform for their ongoing support and solidarity towards the reform work that we are doing. May this report propel both the people and the government towards a nation that embodies sustainability, prosperity, innovation, respect, trust and compassion.

Thank you.

CSO Platform for Reform Co-Secretariats

**JERALD JOSEPH**

Chair

Pusat KOMAS

**SEVAN DORAISAMY**

Co-Chair

SUARAM

## Executive Summary

When Anwar Ibrahim took his oath as the 10th Prime Minister of Malaysia after decades of back and forth, it seemed to spark hope for meaningful reforms and change that he had built the better part of his political career on. However, after the events of the 2018 14th General Election and the Sheraton Move that followed, Malaysians have learned to exercise caution in projecting hopes and aspirations on a change of guard – this caution is especially exercised by civil society organisations (CSOs). With the formation of a Unity Government represented by controversial figures, faith in Anwar’s administration continued to waver.

Now more than ever, it is perhaps particularly crucial to keep a close watch on the work done and potential commitments made by any new government and keep them accountable towards honouring election promises and manifesto. Recognising that the Malaysian political landscape has become increasingly volatile in recent years, a collective of Malaysian CSOs agreed there was an urgent need for serious institutional reform – thus, the coalescence of the CSO Platform for Reform. The idea is that strengthened public institutions would be able to safeguard public interest amid political turmoil. In times of political unrest, the country should still be able to function well and inspire public confidence with efficient institutions. Politicians and ministers come and go while institutions remain, hence its processes and governance should be reliable.

The CSO Platform saw a need for a critical look into statements, comments, and commitments of the Unity Government, as it is a reflection of their priorities. The first 100 days especially set the tone for what the public can expect out of the administration. The CSO Platform took it upon themselves to begin a monitoring process of the newly minted government beginning from 24 November 2022. The process spanned approximately three months up to 19 February 2023.

Over the three-month period, observations were made with a focus on four key priority areas through which the CSO Platform manifests its work. The four core areas are: **Governance Leadership Reform, Institutions Reform, Parliament and State Legislative Assembly Reform, and Key Laws/Policies Reform.** This report aims to present government success stories, works in progress, and not-focus-areas within its first 100 days. In addition, the CSO Platform provided recommendations according to the four core areas in hopes to supplement and inform the government’s work via the aspirations of people on the ground.

## CSO Platform for Reform: A Brief Introduction

CSO Platform for Reform (CSO Platform), a coalition of 60 civil society organisations in Malaysia, is centralising its focus on **four core reforms** for a more holistic approach in realising the people's rights through institutional reform. The secretariat believes that coordinating the efforts of the CSO Platform according to the four core reforms would strengthen their approach by facilitating cooperation with the government of the day through more informed recommendations.

CSO Platform advocacy can be seen through the four core reforms of **Governance Leadership**: The government body should lead by example through unbiased appointments to gain public respect, restore trust, and set a precedent for good practices. Qualified and competent individuals with indisputable experience and expertise should be considered for roles in the civil service, especially in top offices. **Institutions**: The success or performance of any government relies heavily upon the efficacy and best practices of public institutions. Well-functioning institutions can continue to safeguard the interests of a nation even in times of political unrest. **Parliament and State Legislative Assembly**: Recognising the parliament and state legislative assembly as crucial components in affecting change, the legislative process should be more inclusive of diverse stakeholders to ensure that laws and policies passed are relevant to the dynamic needs of the rakyat and impact their lives positively. **Key Law/Policies**: Law and policies influence the implementation of directives aimed at ensuring a dignified society. Equitable laws and policies that keep up with the changes in time are crucial to safeguard all aspects of a nation's development as well as human rights.

## First 100 Days of the Unity Government

The ascension of Anwar Ibrahim to the top office in Malaysian public service came as a long-awaited moment in national history. Having the reformist icon as Prime Minister brings with it much eagerness to witness the changes Anwar had been touting for decades. However, recent history has shown that the fate of Malaysian politics has now become more dynamic than ever. The current Unity Government led by Anwar is testament to that; nothing should be taken for granted.

While the CSO Platform acknowledges that working towards institutional reform is a long-term process that cannot realistically be encapsulated within the first 100 days of a new administration, some indications, steps, and action have been taken by Anwar Ibrahim's Unity Government that align with the focus areas of the four core reforms.

# 1. Governance Leadership Reform

## Government response:

On 25 November 2022, shortly after Anwar was sworn in as the 10th Prime Minister of Malaysia, Bernama quoted him saying he was not considering taking up the post of Finance Minister “at the moment.” In an article by the New Straits Times two days later, he reiterated his commitment toward a **slimmer cabinet to avoid wastage of resources**, by putting an end to appointing ministers as a “reward.” True to his commitment, the full line-up of Anwar’s cabinet featured only 28 ministers and 27 deputy ministers; in contrast, Ismail Sabri and Muhyiddin Yassin each had 32 ministers and 38 deputy ministers in their respective cabinets, which many agreed was bloated.

In keeping with his election promise, Anwar confirmed **he would not be taking any salary**. This is in addition to a **20% pay cut for all ministers**, to appropriately reflect the current economic state and the struggles of the people.

However, it was later announced that **Anwar would also be at the helm of the Finance Ministry**. This announcement was met with criticism as being a poor judgement call where governance was concerned. The public was also shocked to learn that Zahid Hamidi was **appointed Deputy Prime Minister amid 47 corruption charges**. The latter was **also appointed Rural and Regional Development Minister**, a portfolio which notably receives some of the largest allocations.

Economic Affairs Minister Rafizi Ramli defended Anwar taking up the Finance Minister post as justifiable under “extraordinary circumstances” in which Anwar had to make a timely decision, adding that he hoped the situation would be “an exception, not the norm moving forward.”

Despite what Anwar had said earlier about ending cabinet appointments as rewards, the **cabinet line-up became the subject of scrutiny** with rife speculations on political manoeuvring. Among questionable appointments were Tengku Zafrul Aziz (who lost in Kuala Selangor) as International Trade and Industry Minister, which raised questions on why other MPs deemed competent were not appointed via senatorships, such as former Education Minister Maszlee Malik. The appointment of political newcomers to significant portfolios such as the Education and Health Ministries similarly drew attention, as well as the return of Ahmad Maslan as Deputy Finance Minister.

Quoting from an article by MalaysiaNow: *“Jeniri Amir, a senior fellow at the National Professors Council, spoke of an element of ‘reward’, in which the selection process follows the quota of individual parties to ensure their continued support for the top leadership. ‘It is clear that the appointments follow a party hierarchy and quota, which*

*can be seen as a form of reward,' he said. 'This shows that Anwar's hands are tied in the matter of how this government was formed.'"*

Another appointment which drew unsavoury attention was that of **timber tycoon Huang Tiong Sii as Deputy Natural Resources, Environment, and Climate Change Minister**. Among major concerns was conflict of interest, given his position as then-director of logging firm MM Golden (M) Sdn Bhd, of which he was also listed as shareholder under the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM). Huang's resignation announcement was met with little enthusiasm as it was reported he still owned 99.5% shares of the logging firm, where his daughter was also appointed director and owned shares of 0.5%. Distrust of Huang as Deputy Natural Resources, Environment, and Climate Change Minister further stemmed from his alleged involvement in the controversial Baram Dam project. Among purported impacts following the project's execution included displacement of up to 20,000 indigenous people from more than 26 villages, loss of native land, and major loss of forest to timber logging. The project was later cancelled in March 2016 after a series of protests from indigenous communities, who also made the decision to file gazettes for the Baram Dam against the government. Huang has denied the allegations.

Though it was not an official position in office and was reportedly a pro-bono appointment, outcries of nepotism flooded the public sphere following the announcement of **Nurul Izzah, Anwar's daughter, as senior advisor on economics and finance**. The announcement was met with criticism from various entities, with Transparency International Malaysia expressing concern over the outlook on the corruption perception index. Pasir Gudang MP from the PKR camp itself remarked that the appointment was "legally right but morally wrong" and worried that it would "undo any good that the Prime Minister achieves."

However, the Prime Minister maintained that his daughter was qualified despite not having a formal background in the field, and denied that the appointment was nepotism. He justified the appointment by saying Nurul Izzah was not receiving a salary and went so far as to deflect criticism by calling out "hypocrites" who expressed their dissatisfaction. The CSO Platform is concerned that such a practice promotes blatant misuse of position in the top office of national leadership, setting a dangerous precedent. It is most disappointing that the appointment was made (and continued to be justified) by Malaysia's reformist icon.

Later, the Prime Minister set up an advisory committee to assist him in his role as Finance Minister, comprising five special advisors. It was announced that the committee would be headed by former Petronas chief executive Tan Sri Hassan Marican, while other members were Datuk Amar Abdul Hamed Sepawi (Chairman of Sarawak Energy Berhad), Datuk Ahmad Fuad Md Ali (Executive Chairman of FPSO

Ventures Sdn Bhd), Datuk Dr Rajah Rasiah (Professor of Economics at the Asia Europe Institute, University Malaya), and Dr Yeah Kim Leng (Professor of Economics at Sunway University Business School). It was reported that the advisers would serve on a pro-bono basis.

Barely a week after the announcement, Nurul Izzah reportedly stepped down from her role as senior advisor on economics and finance to Anwar, and had instead **accepted an invitation to co-head the advisory committee to the Finance Minister**. In a report by The Star, it is believed the invitation had been extended by committee chair Hassan Marican. Similar concerns of nepotism were repeated regarding the shift, however Economic Affairs Minister Rafizi backed the decision, saying Nurul Izzah “adds value” to the committee.

Among the most prominent promises in the PH election manifesto was ending political appointments in Anwar’s administration. In line with this, media outlets reported **termination of contracts of all political appointees** within the first month of Anwar’s premiership. These included positions of chairmen and board members considered to be political appointees in Federal statutory bodies as well as government-linked companies (GLCs). The decision had reportedly been made during a cabinet meeting on 14 December 2022, followed by a directive issued to secretaries-general of all ministries.

About a week later however, Anwar clarified he was **not against the idea of political appointments completely**. It was reported by The Vibes that he “never said that individuals involved in politics cannot be part of (GLC) management,” but rather appointments should be made based on certain conditions including qualifications in the relevant fields. He alluded to the possibility that “several political figures or MPs will be assigned (to GLCs),” emphasising again that decisions would be made based on merit and competence.

The process of appointment remained a subject of scrutiny despite Anwar’s reassurances. Public scepticism grew, particularly with the announcement by Deputy Prime Minister Zahid of **Kelantan Umno chief Ahmad Jazlan Yaakub reappointed as Felcra chairman** after being terminated, just two days after the termination directive. Responding to public backlash, Anwar announced the following week that the appointment was put on hold, adding that considerations must be made of “professional capabilities and past performance, as well as compliance with regulations and principles of good governance.” To date, the Felcra Board of Directors Profile page on its official website remains blank.

Deputy Finance Minister Ahmad Maslan echoed that “the appointments of new chairmen to statutory bodies and government-linked companies (GLCs) should be

done carefully, prudently and not hastily.” While he opined that appointments should be made within a reasonable period of one to two months, he said it ultimately depended on the decision of the Prime Minister.

Although many had lauded Anwar’s purported commitment toward ending political appointments, an observation was made by freelance journalist K Parkaran: *“All governments of the last five years had been doing this, sacking those nominated by the previous governments and replacing them with their own people [...] These posts were blatantly dished out as rewards for the sacrifices and support of party leaders at all levels. In the process, those who lost in elections were also brought in through this backdoor [...] So, for obvious reasons, Anwar will be facing a severe test when making these thousands of appointments [...] This is because with a much smaller number of Cabinet ministers and their deputies, the coalitions supporting him will expect their quotas in these appointments as rewards.”*

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Anthony Loke had said the **Ministry would not interfere with Prasarana leadership** and instead maintain focus on operational matters related to public transport. He made the comment in response to a question about changing the leadership of Prasarana, following frequent service disruption. The Minister added that he had worked with the same senior officers in his previous tenure as Transport Minister from May 2018 to February 2020. Later on 14 February 2023, he announced that the Ministry had plans to introduce **key performance indicators (KPIs) to gauge the performance of Prasarana**, particularly with regard to service disruption.

In a commitment toward ending corruption in acquiring contracts, Anwar in his first meeting with staff of the Prime Minister’s Department said the practice of **procurements and approval without tender must be stopped**. He went on to say he had even “prohibited [...] family members or close friends from being given priority in any government-approved projects.” It is hoped these practices in place would reduce leakages in public funds and avoid future occurrences similar to the Pharmaniaga ventilator procurement fiasco resulting in losses over RM13 million. It is believed that the lack of documentation on the appointment of Pharmaniaga Logistics Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Boustead Holdings Berhad (whose major shareholder is the Malaysian military pension fund), resulted in the procurement of 108 defective ventilators out of 136 in total.

Following a Cabinet meeting in January 2023, secretaries-general of Ministries and directors-general (DGs) of departments would be subjected to **“KPI Madani”** based on the six core values of the Malaysia Madani concept. Chief Secretary to the Government Mohd Zuki Ali said the set KPIs would emphasise stakeholders’ wishes, allowing the people to evaluate desired achievements by indicating level of



satisfaction and quality of services provided. This “people-friendly” approach is aimed at improving delivery and quality of public services towards enhancing people’s wellbeing.

Also resulting from a Cabinet meeting in January, Anwar said that considerations were being made to **increase High Court judge posts for Sabah and Sarawak**, given the rise in the number of cases. He added that the appointment process would be referred to the respective State Governors before being presented to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

According to Women, Family and Community Development Minister Nancy Shukri, the public sector had achieved 38.2% of women in high-ranking positions. In becoming on par with this, she called on similar efforts to have **more women at decision-making levels in the private sector**. These included GLCs and public listed companies. She said the government aimed to help realise this through continued advocacy with the private sector.

## 2. Institutions Reform

### Government response:

One particularly good thing to come out of Anwar’s cabinet is the **establishment of a Law and Institutional Reforms Ministry**. Led by Azalina Othman, who previously served as Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Law and Human Rights and Deputy Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat II, this Ministry could indicate serious commitment by this administration towards honouring its reform agenda. Azalina in December 2022 announced **plans for the establishment of a task force on institutional reforms**. By January 2023, the Ministry through its Legal Affairs Division had organised a Workshop On Institutional Reform between the government and CSOs. CSO Platform is hoping for a constructive outcome from the workshop.

Azalina had also said in a statement that among her key focus areas was **separation of power of the attorney-general and public prosecutor**, “to preserve the independence of the public prosecutor’s discretion.” In the same vein, Anwar expressed similar sentiments in ensuring **no political interference in court cases and judiciary independence**. He said during the Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) programme, ‘Special Narrative with the Prime Minister,’ that he would follow the Judicial Appointments Commission’s process in judicial appointments and honour their decisions.

As for corruption issues, Anwar said during the same programme that he “provided **leeway to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to act and investigate fully**, starting from the upper echelon.” Where the MACC is concerned,

Anwar also told The Vibes that he was in the midst of **enhancing asset declaration** to make the process more transparent, to accurately reflect the wealth of politicians. However, at the time these statements were made, **Azam Baki continued to serve as MACC Chief Commissioner** and is still in office today. This is despite his stock ownership scandal and internal investigations conducted. To date, Anwar has not made comments on Azam's position within the MACC.

On placing the **MACC under the purview of Parliament**, Economic Affairs Minister Rafizi said there had been no discussions to that effect. While some MPs argued it would not reflect well on Pakatan Harapan to go back on its word, others offered that placing the Commission under Parliament would not genuinely enhance the independence of the former so long as the latter was not truly independent from the executive branch itself. There were also concerns about confidentiality of MACC cases and how the information would be handled if the Commission were to be placed under Parliament.

Nonetheless, Azalina was reported as saying the government was considering the **establishment of a public ombudsman** to better handle cases of misconduct by civil servants. She added that existing legal aid systems under the Department of Legal Aid and the National Legal Aid Foundation would be reviewed to **increase the quality of service and access to justice** for everyday Malaysians.

In the same vein of enhancing public institution accountability, it seems the unity government led by Anwar is set to go ahead with the **Independent Police Conduct Commission (IPCC)** as a replacement to the earlier Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPCMC) proposed by the first Pakatan Harapan government. The IPCC is expected to become functional following the enforcement of the IPCC Act 2020, poised for June 2023. Concerns surrounding the IPCC include that it does not have sufficient investigative and enforcement powers, nor independence; findings by the IPCC are referred to the Police Force Commission Board, which is not obligated to implement the recommendations or report back to the IPCC. This is considered a watered down version of what was initially proposed for the IPCMC, in that the IPCMC was intended as an independent body with its own investigative powers.

According to the MalayMail: *"Other recommendations removed under the IPCC include suggested disciplinary jurisdiction over any misconduct committed by any member of the police force and the powers to exercise disciplinary jurisdiction over any complaint concerning the misconduct of any member of the police force."*

CSO Platform is concerned that the IPCC will only become a waste of resources if investigations continue to be contained within institutions that already experience distrust from the rakyat.

Women, Family, and Community Development Minister Nancy Shukri announced in December 2022 that the Cabinet had “agreed in principle” to establish a **special department for the welfare and interests of children**. She indicated that the effort would encompass a cross-ministry effort to involve legislation aimed at providing better protection for children, adding that non-Malaysian children in the country similarly required care. It remains to be seen how the department would function alongside the existing children's division under the Social Welfare Department.

Similarly, Anwar announced an **independent children's commission** which is set to fall under the purview of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam). In outlining the roles of the independent commission, Azlina said it would serve as an independent statutory body to hold inquiries and investigate complaints about violations of children's rights. The commission will also advise and assist the government in matters of legislation enactment, administrative instructions and procedures, and recommend action to be taken, in addition to ensuring compliance with international standards under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other related international agreements. The Commissioner would also take the lead on the process of establishing the children's commission through the drafting of a specific Act.

Perhaps one of the more notable strides with regard to child rights was the announcement by Home Minister Saifuddin Nasution that **children detained at the Immigration Detention Depot would soon be transferred out** to the care of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) specialising in children welfare. This victory not only indicates the government's commitment toward safeguarding children's rights and interests, but also that NGOs and CSOs are relied upon as trustworthy, strategic partners.

Nonetheless, it would be prudent to note that Saifuddin also had a track record of **minimising lived experiences and concerns of detainees**. In December, a video clip and several photos went viral, purportedly of men at the Immigration Depot in Kimanis, Sabah, who appeared frail. Public outcry demanded that the condition of detention centres be scrutinised. However, Saifuddin responded by saying the detainees depicted in the viral materials were already in such a state prior to being detained, urging the media to produce “fair” reports. When contacted, Sabah Immigration Director Sitti Saleha Habib Yusoff denied mistreatment of detainees, adding that all of them were ensured sufficient food and medical supply. She went on to add the video clip and photos were “exploited.”

The public is largely in agreement that among the best performing Ministers of the Unity Government would be Transport Minister Anthony Loke. Barely a month into his second stint as Transport Minister, Loke was seen **undercover on public transport a**

**number of times** to assess firsthand the situation on the ground. He had also made surprise visits to Kuala Lumpur International Airport and was frequently seen on the ground at LRT stations where complaints of faulty infrastructure were rife. It was noted that issues of faulty lighting, lifts, and escalators were quickly rectified following Loke's spot-checks.

Indicating his commitment, he called on providers of facilities related to public transport to **make the maintenance of public facilities a culture**. He insisted this must be a norm to ensure consistency in performance, breaking the reactive habit of only taking action when there is a problem. In an effort to put this into practice, Loke extended an invitation to Prasarana Malaysia Bhd and Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd (KTMB) to attend a post-Cabinet meeting at the Ministry. He noted it had been two years since either party had been invited to such meetings.

Additionally, Loke urged the **Land Public Transport Agency (APAD ) to expand its auditing** within the Klang Valley towards a smooth public transport ecosystem. He added this was because public transport was not only provided by Prasarana. Expanding APAD auditing would encompass various agencies and other commuter companies such as KTMB or local authorities such as Kuala Lumpur City Hall if facilities involve walkways.

In encouraging use of public transport, Loke announced a **shuttle service between KL Sentral and the Parliament building** was being set up. This, he said, would encourage members of Parliament and their staff to commute via public transport. Announcing that the shuttle service could begin when Parliament meets on 13 February 2023, Loke added that the service would still be in a trial period and subject to further discussions with the Parliament's administration.

From 16 February 2023 onwards, free KTM rides were made available to students from Primary One up to Form Six and persons with disabilities (PWD) registered under the Social Welfare Department. This is following the introduction of **MyRailLife free-ride passes by the Transport Ministry and KTMB**. The pass is expected to ease transportation costs for 900,000 commuters annually, and is eligible for the KTMB Eastern Shuttle service comprising 14 routes.

Facing increasing strain, government hospitals are not only overcrowded but understaffed as well. Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa however said there were insufficient funds to hire more doctors, adding that staffing of medical personnel required cross-agency effort. This would involve the Finance Ministry as well as the Public Service Department. In the meantime, The Vibes reported **seven initiatives proposed by the Health Minister to mitigate hospital overcrowding**. They included: auditing existing initiatives, outsourcing with government agencies and the private

sector, implementing the use of bed management units, and treating non-emergency cases in health clinics (as she said about 70% of cases treated in the emergency department are often non-critical.)

In addition, Zaliha said the **Lean Healthcare management strategy had also been enhanced** to “minimise irrelevant activities and focus on reducing waiting times,” which Zaliha said had proven effective based on implementation in the emergency department of Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital. There, patient waiting time had apparently gone down from 192 minutes to 88 minutes on average, while its medical ward recorded a patient discharge time improvement from 360 minutes to 180 minutes.

In responding to distressed healthcare workers, Zaliha had discouraged them from going on strike as she said it would not solve any problems. She said this in response to rumours of an unannounced nationwide strike. It was later reported that the Health Ministry would engage in a **townhall session with Hartal Doktor Kontrak** on 22 February 2023.

### **3. Parliament and State Legislative Assembly Reform**

#### **Government response:**

In a move to ensure independence of the legislative branch from the executive, Senate President Rais Yatim and Dewan Rakyat Speaker Johari Abdul presented a **memorandum on Parliament transformation** to the Prime Minister on 29 December 2022. According to a joint statement from the offices of the Senate President and the Dewan Rakyat Speaker, the memorandum was well-received by Anwar, who said it would be given special attention. It also included that the Parliamentary Transformation Committee, chaired by Rais over the past year, had completed a review towards **ensuring Parliament independence** from influences of any party, including the executive. Among recommendations included in the memorandum were the **renewal of the Parliamentary Services Act 1963** and **amendments to the Houses of Parliament (Privileges and Powers) Act 1952**.

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Johari Abdul similarly announced his intention to bring back the Parliamentary Services Act. This would empower Parliament to conduct its own administration, staffing, and have control over its finances, he said, separating it from relying on the Finance Ministry for funds and the Public Services Department for staffing. Papers on the proposal were expected to be presented to Cabinet soon, according to Johari.

Additionally, the Speaker indicated his commitment toward **enhancing the role of Parliamentary Special Select Committees (PSSC)** to supplement Cabinet members

in the decision-making process that impacts the lives and livelihoods of the everyday rakyat. He emphasised that the PSSC is open to “anyone from every walk of life” to ensure relevant and realistic decisions are made, to be inclusive of voices from the grassroots. To enhance transparency, the PSSC may also be subjected to compulsory press conferences following the completion of a task.

To maintain decorum in line with honouring the august house of Parliament, Johari had also said MPs who utter foul remarks and conduct themselves poorly may be subject to a fine of RM1,000 alongside suspension. He said a **special select committee will be tasked with monitoring the conduct of MPs** to maintain a respectful environment where national concerns are addressed with dignity.

The launch of open data platform OpenDOSM Next Gen by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM) is a step toward **informed decision-making and debates based on data**, particularly in Parliament. Although data sets are currently limited to unemployment rate, exchange rates, Consumer Price Index, Gross Domestic Product, voting statistics, and on Covid-19, it is hopeful that the unity government continues to prioritise data as a key element in good governance. The need for debates and motions based on data became all the more apparent after a misguided remark by PAS MP Dr Halimah Ali, who worried that low-nutrition meals in the Menu Rahmah scheme could contribute to autism. Ill-informed comments such as this were rightly chastised as potentially inducing anxiety among low-income groups hoping for affordable meals.

Deputy Prime Minister and MA63 technical committee chair Fadillah Yusof said **returning one-third seats in the Dewan Rakyat to Sabah and Sarawak** is a process that may take two to three years as it “needed to go through many stages including three main committees, namely the MA63 Steering Committee; MA63 Technical Committee and MA63 Implementation Action Council, as well as involve various parties.” Nonetheless, Fadillah confirmed the matter was in discussion.

While progressive reforms seem to be in motion for Parliament, the earlier major concern was the **auto-resign clause** in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the unity government. The clause indicates that MPs are deemed to have resigned their positions if they vote as they wish on procedural matters in Parliament. MPs are essentially bound to vote in support of Anwar in any motions of confidence or bills tabled in the Dewan Rakyat. Government watchdogs have deemed this clause unconstitutional and an infringement on democratic practices.

## 4. Key Law/Policies Reform

### Government response:

Malaysian mothers are one step closer to conferring citizenship to their children born overseas. Anwar's Cabinet had **agreed to amend the Federal Constitution so that children born overseas to Malaysian mothers gain automatic Malaysian citizenship**. The announcement was made in a joint press statement by Home Minister Saifuddin and Law and Institutional Reform Minister Azalina Othman. The amendment was expected to be tabled in the February 2023 Dewan Rakyat sitting. Azalina had earlier said the issue was at the top of her to-do list and reiterated her commitment towards amending the Constitution. She said the amendment would be to Part II of the Second Schedule of the Constitution.

In light of this positive development, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) called on the government to make similar strides with regard to all stateless children. Suhakam chairman Rahmat Mohamad in a statement had urged the government to **address statelessness issues** involving "adopted and foundling children in Malaysia, Orang Asli, natives of Sabah and Sarawak, children born out of wedlock or unregistered marriages, undocumented persons, and others." He said a lack of documentation hindered the children from accessing basic rights such as healthcare and education.

Home Minister Saifuddin on 9 January 2023 said a special committee had been set up to **look into all matters pertaining to citizenship**. This would include the matter of children born overseas to Malaysian mothers, as well as expediting citizenship application processes, as the committee aimed to address all aspects of citizenship matters.

On laws related to the mandatory death penalty, Azalina had stated the government's commitment towards **"rehabilitative and restorative justice"** through amendments expected to be tabled in Parliament in February 2023. The amendments would allow for the courts to decide on alternative punishments but not, she emphasised, completely do away with the death penalty. Amendments are expected to be made following the tabling of seven bills, namely the:

1. Penal Code (Amendment) Bill 2022,
2. Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill 2022,
3. Criminal Justice (Amendment) Bill 2022,
4. Kidnapping (Amendment) Bill 2022,
5. Firearms (Increased Penalties) (Amendment) Bill 2022,
6. Arms (Amendment) Bill 2022; and
7. Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill 2022.

Azalina also said the government may “consider a Phase 2 follow-up study, which involves reforming the criminal justice system, such as more effective sentencing policy, whipping and prisons reform that include measures to reduce prison overcrowding.” The amendments regarding mandatory death penalty would reportedly impact 1,320 prisoners on death row.

To address inmates currently on moratorium for the death penalty, Deputy Law and Institutional Reform Minister Ramkarpal Singh said the government was considering **enacting a temporary act**. Although he did not go into the specifics, Ramkarpal said the temporary act would directly impact 840 of 1,320 inmates under the moratorium against their appeal on the death penalty at the Federal Court. The remaining 480 inmates would go through the normal appeal process, he added.

It comes as a relief that Home Minister Saifuddin had agreed to hold engagements with stakeholders to discuss the **Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012 (Sosma)**. Saifuddin had previously defended the Act and said there was no review in sight, however Deputy Law Minister Ramkarpal said his proposal to Saifuddin to hold engagements was well-received. They conceded that there was a need to address various aspects of the Act which have drawn criticism, including a provision denying bail for certain detainees. Ramkarpal said both Law and Home Ministries will be inviting all stakeholders – including the police – to the engagement sessions.

Anwar during the February 2023 Dewan Rakyat sitting said studies were being conducted into the Whistleblower Protection Act to determine relevant amendments required to **enhance whistleblower protection**. This would support the process of reporting on cases of corruption, abuse of power and misconduct. He had said the government would “table it at the next Parliament session at the latest.”

The unity government seems to be making headway with delivering on Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) commitments. **Sabah is set to regain control of oil and gas regulation** originating from the state, upon cabinet approval in December 2022. However, implementation is currently contingent upon consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Once implemented, decisions on gas prices will be in the hands of the Sabah state government and no longer determined by the federal government.

More notably, **Sabah and Sarawak now have autonomy over development projects of not more than RM50 million** to facilitate execution of projects without requiring approval from Putrajaya. Anwar was also reported as saying “the government is deliberating on a new formula for the special grants for the Bornean states, as prescribed under Article 112D of the federal constitution. Article 112D of the federal constitution mentions the special grants guaranteed to Sabah and Sarawak, and states that they should be reviewed every five years.”



Deputy Prime Minister Fadillah Yusof, who heads the technical committee on the implementation of MA63, affirmed that the **government would work swiftly on MA63-related matters**. He said on top of autonomy over development projects, immediate focus of the committee included the annual special allocation as stated under Article 112(D) of MA63, as well as decisions on state land acquired by the federal government but remained undeveloped.

Furthering collaboration with CSOs, Azalina on 9 January 2023 held an engagement session between government agencies, academics, and child's rights groups on recommended **amendments to the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017 and the Evidence of Child Witness Act 2007**. In a press statement issued by her office, Azalina said the engagement was intended to gather feedback from stakeholders before proceeding with amendments to the law, in addition to the establishment of an independent children's commission which was later announced by Anwar on 18 January.

In an attempt to secure the confidence of the conservative voter population, Anwar assured that the unity government under his stewardship will **never recognise LGBT rights, secularism, and communism**. While the statement was made to dispel political narratives spun by the opposition, it is also evidence of the perpetual state of risk the LGBT community is subjected to and a blatant disregard for human rights. Human Rights Watch (HRW) later in the week called on Anwar to speed up legal reforms in the interest of protecting minority communities and freedoms. HRW deputy Asia director Phil Robertson said: *"The new government should commit to ending the death penalty, lifting restrictions on free speech rights, and stopping abuses against refugees and LGBT people."*

Anwar has remained consistent in keeping with the first item on the list of Ten Promises In the First 100 Days, which is to abolish the GST and take steps to reduce cost of living. He told reporters on a working trip to Singapore that he would only consider reintroducing the Goods and Services Tax once the monthly income level rises to at least RM3,000 to RM4,000. Among other initiatives to reduce the cost of living burden in his administration are Menu Rahmah and MyRailLife.

# **Recommendations for the Consideration of the Government**

## **1. Governance Leadership Reform**

### *A. Prime Minister*

Members propose that the role of Prime Minister be limited to two terms, with the sole duty of overseeing ministerial roles and developments of projects nationwide. The Prime Minister should not hold any other portfolio apart from being Prime Minister.

Absolute powers of the Prime Minister should also be decentralised. Members of the CSO Platform for Reform are of the view that too much power is centralised within the Executive, specifically to the Prime Minister. The powers should instead be distributed among state and local authorities. Similarly, the PM's powers should also be distributed to Sabah and Sarawak, especially in handling the education framework and funds in the respective states.

Members of the CSO Platform also call for the exposure of data in the PM's Office (PMO) and PM's Department (JPM), for transparency into its levels of power and information. This transparency would enable accountability to be measured and address the confusion of power structure in the PMO and PMD.

### *B. Premier/Chief Minister/Menteri Besar*

Similar to that of the Prime Minister, the roles of state Premier/Chief Minister/Menteri Besar should also be limited to two terms. The Premier should be tasked solely with overseeing and monitoring state-related projects, and hold no other portfolio.

### *C. Minister/Exco*

Ministerial and Exco positions are also proposed to adhere to a two-term limit. Apart from their task to ensure all projects and government initiatives take place as scheduled, no Minister or Exco member should hold any other portfolio, nor GLC positions.

### *D. Civil servant chief (Director General)*

Members maintain that the term for the role should be as required by the law, however there should be more transparency in appointments to ensure positions are secured based on merit and performance.

The Director General should be committed to ensuring smooth procedure of government duties at the optimum level. They should not hold any position in any political party and the appointment for a Director General should be free from any

political influence. They should be focused primarily on their duty to serve the nation, not furthering any political agenda.

*E. Deputy Ministers in all ministries*

Regular monitoring is required into the relevance and functionality of such roles.

Parliament should have one mechanism such as a Parliamentary Committee to go through senior ministerial positions.

## **2. Institutions Reform**

Some proposals from the CSO Platform are to establish:

- A. Specific research into GLCs in Malaysia, particularly in determining GLC frameworks and concepts. The research should be conducted by reliable GLC professionals or experts.
- B. Independent Law Reform Commission alongside the Independent Police Complaints of Misconduct Commission (IPCMC) to review, draft and make laws and the related processes equitable, modern, fair and efficient. At present, the bill passed in the Dewan Rakyat is the Independent Police Conduct Commission (IPCC) bill, which is considered to be a watered-down version of the IPCMC and that it protects the police rather than holding them accountable, and does not meet the expected institutional reforms.
- C. Independent Commission on Land Rights (18th recommendation by SUHAKAM in the 2013 National Inquiry on the Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples), to ensure that indigenous land rights issues are addressed effectively. The functions of the Commission, among others, should be to advise the government on laws and policies related to indigenous peoples; propose and monitor sustainable development programmes on indigenous peoples' land; promote participation of indigenous peoples at all levels; and conduct research on issues related to the well-being of indigenous peoples. The Commission members should be composed mainly of indigenous peoples' representatives that receive the support from, and acceptance by, indigenous peoples of Malaysia.
- D. A National Unity Commission with inclusive participation from experts, relevant stakeholders and CSOs.
- E. Ombudsman with the inclusion of experts and CSOs in receiving complaints about government departments or agencies which are under investigation or received complaints from members of the public.

### **3. Parliament & State Legislative Assembly Reforms**

#### *A. Effective Select Committees at Parliament and State levels*

The Parliamentary Select Committees are sub-legislative bodies each consisting of a small number of Members of Parliament (MPs) from the House of Representatives, or senators from the Senate, or a mix of both appointed to deal with particular areas or issues; most are made up of members of the Representatives appointed to deal with particular areas or issues. CSOs should be institutionalised as part of the Select Committee; CSOs can be Secretariat and regular dialogue partners of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia (APPGM).

#### *B. Parliamentary Committee to vet the appointment of senior ministerial positions*

#### *C. Council for Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants (MAPO) to be put under a Parliamentary Select Committee*

This would promote transparency in demanding for:

- i. their accountability to report to the Select Committee; and
- ii. a reporting mechanism for the government.

#### *D. Process of appointment of Speaker/Deputy Speakers*

The appointment process for the position of Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat and its deputies must be transparent and not by political appointment. The proposal is for the Speaker to be elected by MPs, when the House meets for the first time after a general election. Any MP is qualified to be the Speaker of the House, but non-MPs who meet the same qualifications required to be an MP are also eligible for election as Speaker. A candidate for Speaker must be nominated and seconded by at least two MPs other than himself. This nomination process must be conducted at least 14 days before the election of the Speaker. If only one candidate meets these conditions, he is automatically elected Speaker; otherwise, voting by secret ballot is conducted, with the winner decided by a simple majority. Two deputy Speakers are elected in a similar manner. This also includes the appointment of the Secretary of the Dewan. This Parliament & State Legislative Assembly Reforms is to monitor the appointment process, and ensure accountability of questions delivered in the Parliament.

#### *E. Reforming Debates to be more constructive*

Debates between MPs must be constructive and will be treated with decorum and respect, befitting of the august house.

*F. Use of data and statistics in discussing policy*

Peoples' issues are to be brought up in the Parliament supported by data and statistics, so that policies can be enacted or rejected based on informed decisions.

*G. Stricter attendance for all MPs and ADUNs*

MPs and ADUNs should attend all sittings, unless debilitated by illness. The public may monitor their representative's attendance record through the Hansard.

*H. Set length of sitting to at least 135-150 days*

The schedule for Parliamentary sittings should be set and published at the beginning of the year. With the previous government (prior to Pakatan Harapan forming the government in November 2022), the Parliament convened for 89 days only. Malaysia needs a healthy and robust Parliament to function well. The schedule of Parliament sessions and meetings for the year should be made public, before the Parliament convenes, not unlike the meeting schedule published by the United Nations.

*I. Revival of the Research Component at Parliament and State Levels*

This is to provide support to all MPs and ADUNs at the respective levels. According to the Parliament website, the functions of the Research and Library Division are as follows:

- i. To analyse the Bills tabled, and to prepare Bills analysis report.
- ii. To prepare abstract and speaking notes for Members of Parliament attending local or overseas conferences/meetings and seminars.
- iii. To assist Members of Parliament with information and statistics, and prepare notes for debate in the House.
- iv. To manage Parliament's Library.
- v. To manage an index database for Bills tabled and newspaper cutting.
- vi. To manage multimedia collection on interactive web.
- vii. To manage and implement research tasks according to area i.e economy, social, energy science, security and international for Members of Parliament.

*J. Re-emphasise Contempt of Parliament/State Assemblies*

Propose a standard of punishment to ensure the functionality of Dewan Rakyat and prevent MP/ADUN from escaping.

*K. Modality of the Dewan Negara*

Reforms should be made to make the Dewan Negara more democratic and inclusive, namely:

- i. Lowering the eligibility age to become a Senator, from 30 years old to 18 years old.
- ii. Empowering the Dewan Negara with the power to reject, and not just delay bills, from Dewan Rakyat.

- iii. Increasing the proportion of Sabah and Sarawak Senators in the Dewan Negara to 1/3, to provide East Malaysia with check-and-balance powers on constitutional amendments.
- iv. Exploring systems to elect Senators, instead of the current system of appointments.

#### *L. Petition Submission*

CSO Platform for Reform to fully utilise the 60 members in the coalition by:

- i. Having a press conference after each petition submission
- ii. Working with existing network in the Parliament
- iii. Organising systematic engagement

Petition must have the proposal of suggestions and/or solutions.

## **4. Key Law/Policies Reform**

### *A. Abolish/amend repressive laws*

- i. Cease and desist the use of (draconian) oppressive and unjust laws, such as:
  - Sedition Act 1948 - The Sedition Act 1948 (Akta Hasutan 1948) in Malaysia is a law prohibiting discourse deemed as seditious. The Act was originally enacted by the colonial authorities of British Malaya in 1948 to contain the local communist insurgency. The Act criminalises speech with "seditious tendency," including that which would "bring into hatred or contempt or to excite disaffection against" the government or engender "feelings of ill-will and hostility between different races." In post-colonial times, the Act has been abused to silence dissenting voices of activists in particular. The CSO Platform views this as unreasonable censorship and restriction on freedom of expression, as enshrined in Article 10 of the Federal Constitution.
  - Detention without trial: Prevention of Crime Act 1959 (POCA), Prevention of Terrorism Act 2015 (POTA), Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012 (SOSMA) – These laws are notorious for having been abused in the past and, while they remain on the statute book, the potential for misuse, by any government, remains ever-present. There are sufficient laws to address the threats of crime and terrorism without the government resorting to SOSMA and POCA, or any other authoritarian laws. If need be, existing laws can be amended, or appropriate new laws enacted, to ensure that national security is not compromised.
  - Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 – The Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 (Akta Mesin Cetak dan Penerbitan 1984) is a Malaysian statute governing the usage of printing presses and the

printing, importation, production, reproduction, publishing and distribution of publications in Malaysia. Although the law was meant to maintain genuine news stories, create a regulated press sector, and provide legal guidelines to reporters, some say that the legislation is restricting political discourse, silencing political opponents and manipulating the news delivered to consumers.

- National Security Council Act 2016 – The National Security Council or Majlis Keselamatan Negara Malaysia (MKN) is a federal agency under the Prime Minister's Department. The Council is responsible for managing and coordinating the implementation of policies related to the security of Malaysia. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia and consists of the council's executive members, including the Deputy Prime Minister as deputy chairman, NSC Director General, three ministers (Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Communications and Multimedia), the Chief Secretary to the Government, the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and the Inspector-General of Police (IGP). On 22 December 2015, the Malaysian Senate passed a controversial national security bill that the government says will strengthen its ability to counter rising threats, which critics have slammed as a blow to democracy and human rights.
  - Anti-Fake News Act 2018 – On 11 March 2021, the Government of Malaysia issued the Emergency (Essential Powers) (No. 2) Ordinance 2021. The Ordinance criminalises the dissemination of fake news related to COVID-19 and contains accompanying provisions that set aside regular legal guarantees. It is an aggravated reincarnation of the country's Anti-Fake News Act of 2018 that had been repealed in late 2019.
- ii. Accede to the remaining six core international human rights instruments and their optional protocols:
- CAT - Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
  - CCPR - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
  - CED - Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
  - ICERD - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
  - ICESCR - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
  - ICMW - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

- iii. Amend and strengthen the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012 – The Act was amended in 2019 to remove street protest as a criminal offence. This Act must be further amended and strengthened to allow for the rights to peaceful assembly to be fully exercised, as enshrined in the Constitution.
- iv. Abolish the death penalty – The fight to abolish the death penalty is continued and should have commitment from stakeholders who are fighting for it.
- v. Electoral reform – Efforts to further increase transparency, efficacy, and inclusivity of election processes must continue especially given the success of UNDI18.

#### *B. Proposal of new laws*

- i. Political Funding Law – Political funding, or political financing, refers to how political parties and individual politicians raise money for election campaigns, daily operations and other activities. It regulates how parties and politicians receive and use money by ensuring disclosure of the source of funds and donations as well as the amounts received. This law is essential for holding political parties and politicians accountable, ensuring transparency over funds, and preventing misappropriation, bribery, fraud or abuse of power where funding is concerned.

#### *C. State law reform*

- i. Land Law – To amend and strengthen Land Laws especially pertaining to customary land rights and Orang Asli lands.
- ii. Syariah Law – To amend and strengthen Islamic religious law that deals with exclusively Islamic laws, which has jurisdiction upon every Muslim in Malaysia.
- iii. Local Government Act – The enactment of the Local Government Act 1976 led to the abolition of local authority elections. The Act provided that the Mayor or President and all Councillors of a local authority, i.e., City Council, Municipal Council or District Council shall be appointed by the State Authority. The Commissioner of the City of Kuala Lumpur would be appointed by the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- iv. Local Council Elections – There is currently a political will in Kuala Lumpur, hence, it should be the first one to have the local council election.
- v. Local government financing – Distribution of resources and revenue with the states should be more transparent and available for public access. Local authorities should engage with economic experts to execute proposals for the local government.

#### *D. Sabah and Sarawak focus areas*

- i. Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) – The MA63 is the agreement which combined North Borneo, Sarawak, (and Singapore) with the existing states of the Federation of Malaya, resulting in a union named Malaysia, which covers



the rights of Sabah and Sarawak. There is a need to empower the regions of Sabah and Sarawak through the implementation of the MA63, the decentralisation of power to both regions, and to reduce the development gap between Sabah, Sarawak and the peninsula, and to ensure the rights of the Orang Asli, Sabah, Sarawak and the peninsula.

- ii. Leadership of Sabah and Sarawak for full autonomy in handling their state - education. A long-term and ad hoc Committee to address local issues, such as statelessness in Sabah and labour restriction in plantation companies, to be headed by a committee that is not influenced by the change of government, political appointment, and participated by CSO and grassroot community.
- iii. Financial transparency for Sabah and Sarawak is needed as it will ease unbalanced development and tracking back any loophole of fund allocation.
- iv. Cabotage Policy – CSO Platform should relook into the relevance of Cabotage Policy that hampers the price of goods in Sabah and Sarawak.

## **Conclusion**

Every change in leadership brings about new opportunities for civil society to engage the government of the day on progressive reforms. That said, the last few years have shown that the window to advocate for these reforms is never guaranteed. Malaysia has never seen more tumultuous times in politics, therefore every available opportunity to further the cause for institutional reform should not be squandered.

The CSO Platform for Reform through the four core reforms hopes these recommendations will be welcomed by the Unity Government administration.

## References

1. 'Anwar not considering holding Finance Minister position "at the moment"' – Bernama, 25 November 2022
2. 'I won't appoint ministers as a reward, said Anwar' – The New Straits Times, 27 November 2022
3. 'Anwar's Cabinet – full lineup of ministers and deputies' – Free Malaysia Today, 9 December 2022
4. 'PM: No salary for me at all' – The Star, 6 December 2022
5. 'Anwar says ministers agree to take 20% pay cut until economy recovers' – The Edge Markets, 5 December 2022
6. 'Pressing situation needed Anwar to take on finance portfolio, says Rafizi' – The Star, 5 December 2022
7. "'Political rewards" in Anwar's Cabinet appointments?' – MalaysiaNow, 11 December 2022
8. 'Huang says he has quit as logging firm director' – 16 December 2022
9. 'BN's Timber Tycoon Candidate For Repok Illegally Plundered Baram – EXPOSE' – Sarawak Report, 1 May 2016
10. A report on the Baram Dam project by International Rivers, a non-profit environmental organisation (<https://archive.internationalrivers.org/campaigns/baram-dam#:~:text=The%20proposed%20project%20has%20triggered,26%20villages%20would%20be%20displaced.>)
11. 'Nurul Izzah is PM's senior adviser on economics, finance' – Free Malaysia Today, 29 January 2023
12. 'Nurul Izzah's appointment will affect corruption perception index, says Transparency International' – The Star, 31 January 2023
13. 'Nurul Izzah's appointment 'legally right but morally wrong', says Pasir Gudang MP' – The Star, 30 January 2023
14. 'Nurul Izzah's appointment can undo the good under Anwar's administration, says Pasir Gudang MP' – The Star, 1 February 2023
15. 'PM Anwar: Nurul Izzah qualified to be appointed economic, financial advisor' – MalayMail, 29 January 2023
16. 'Nurul Izzah's appointment not nepotism, says Anwar' – Free Malaysia Today, 31 January 2023.
17. 'Anwar claps back at 'hypocrites' who criticise Nurul Izzah's appointment as financial and economic adviser' – MalayMail, 6 February 2023
18. 'PM sets up five-member special advisory body in MoF; appointments on pro-bono basis' – The Edge Markets, 7 February 2023.
19. 'Nurul Izzah accepts invitation to co-head position at secretariat supporting Finance Ministry' – The Star, 12 February 2023
20. 'Nurul Izzah 'adds value' to panel advising father Anwar, Rafizi says amid nepotism claim' – MalayMail, 15 February 2023
21. 'Contracts of all political appointees to be terminated' – The Star, 15 December 2022
22. 'I never said no political appointees in GLCs, expect some: Anwar' – The Vibes, 21 December 2022

23. 'Umno's Ahmad Jazlan reappointed as Felcra chairman' – Free Malaysia Today, 17 December 2022
24. 'Jazlan's reappointment as Felcra chairman put on hold, says PM' – Free Malaysia Today, 21 December 2022
25. Board of Directors Profile page, Felcra Berhad official website (<https://felcra.com.my/corporate-information/board-of-directors-profile/>)
26. 'Ahmad Maslan: No hurry in appointments of new GLC, GLIC, statutory body chairmen' – New Straits Times, 26 December 2022
27. 'Anwar faces stiff test over GLC appointments' – FreeMalaysiaToday, 19 December 2022
28. 'Ministry will not meddle in Prasarana leadership, says Loke' – The Star, 9 December 2022
29. 'Prasarana to be given KPIs, says Loke' – FreeMalaysiaToday, 14 February 2023
30. 'No more procurements without tender, says Anwar' – The Star, 29 November 2022
31. 'Audit: Govt lost over RM13m due to unusable ventilator machines' – MalaysiaKini, 16 February 2023
32. 'No appointment docs for firm procuring ventilators caused govt to lose millions' – The Vibes, 17 February 2023
33. 'KPIs for sec-gens, DGs to be based on Madani strategic cores, says Zuki' – The Star (source: Bernama), 9 February 2023
34. "Malaysia Madani lays out Anwar's vision of a civilised, skilled and inclusive society based on six core values namely Sustainability, Compassion, Respect, Innovation, Prosperity and Trust (SCRIPT)." – Bernama, 19 January 2023
35. 'Govt to look into increasing High Court judge posts for Sabah, Sarawak' – MalaysiaNow (source: Bernama), 18 January 2023
36. 'Minister reiterates call for more women at decision-making level in private sector' – New Straits Times, 3 February 2023
37. 'Govt to set up task force on institutional reforms' – Free Malaysia Today, 12 December 2022
38. 'Separation of powers of A-G, citizenship status issue top Azalina's to-do list' – The New Straits Times, 3 December 2022
39. 'I won't interfere in court cases, says Anwar' – FreeMalaysiaToday, 20 December 2022
40. 'Judiciary free to carry out duties based on facts - PM Anwar' – 7 January 2023
41. 'I am now tuning up asset declaration system with MACC: Anwar' – The Vibes, 17 January 2023
42. 'No discussions on placing MACC under Parliament, says Rafizi' – FreeMalaysiaToday, 9 February 2023
43. 'Keep promise to place MACC under Parliament, Anwar told' – FreeMalaysiaToday, 10 February 2023
44. 'Govt mulls proposed establishment of Ombudsman Malaysia, says Azalina' – MalayMail (source: Bernama), 17 January 2023
45. 'Suaram calls for transparent probe into alleged rape of teen by cop' – FreeMalaysiaToday, 3 January 2023
46. 'IPCC Act to be in force June 2023, says home minister' – MalayMail, 13 December 2022
47. 'Govt creating new department for at-risk children' – The Star, 31 December 2022

48. 'PM Anwar: Cabinet agrees to set up independent children's commission under Suhakam' – MalayMail, 18 January 2023
49. 'Azalina outlines roles of children's commission' – Free Malaysia Today, 19 January 2023
50. 'Saifuddin Nasution: Home Ministry to shift children out of Immigration Detention Depot to welfare organisations' – 16 February 2023
51. 'Home Ministry denies Kimanis detainees mistreated, says issue must not be "overplayed"' – New Straits Times, 9 December 2022
52. 'Sabah Immigration denies mistreating Kimanis detainees' – New Straits Times, 9 December 2022
53. 'Anthony Loke Goes Undercover On LRT To Get A Feel Of What Commuters Face Daily' – The Rakyat Post, 6 December 2022
54. 'Undercover Minister Wants Aerotrain Service At KLIA Improved' – BusinessToday, 7 January 2023
55. 'Maintenance of public facilities must become a culture, says Anthony Loke' – The Edge Markets, 15 December 2022
56. 'Apad told to expand audit to ensure smooth public transportation ecosystem' – New Straits Times, 8 December 2022
57. 'KL Sentral-Parliament shuttle bus to encourage MPs, staff to take public transport' – New Straits Times, 3 February 2023
58. 'Free KTM rides for students and persons with disabilities with MyRailLife pass' – 16 February 2023
59. 'Health Ministry wants to hire more doctors but no funding – Zaliha' – 15 February 2023
60. 'Hiring of medical staff should not be MoH's responsibility alone: Zaliha' – The Vibes, 15 February 2023
61. 'Dr Zaliha tells aggrieved healthcare workers not to strike, calls for meeting to seek solution' – MalayMail, 15 February 2023
62. 'Dr Zaliha bersemuka dengan Hartal Doktor Kontrak 22 Feb.' – MalaysiaGazette, 17 February 2023
63. 'Memorandum on parliament transformation handed over to PM' – Bernama, 29 December 2022
64. 'Report: Speaker sets the wheels in motion for reformation in the Dewan Rakyat' – MalayMail, 16 January 2023
65. 'Foul-mouth MPs to be fined RM1,000 or suspended, says Dewan Rakyat Speaker' – Asia News Network, 6 February 2023
66. 'Stats Dept launches open data portal OpenDOSM, aims to spur good policies' – MalayMail, 12 January 2023
67. The Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry on 31 January 2023 announced the Menu Rahmah programme which features RM5 meals from participating eateries. The initiative is aimed at easing cost of living burdens.
68. "'An insult to restaurant owners": PAS MP flayed by netizens over cancer, autism remark' – Focus Malaysia, 17 February 2023
69. 'PAS MP's autism claim will only spark anxiety among poor, says Amanah man' – FreeMalaysiaToday, 18 February 2023
70. 'Unity govt MoU: MPs who vote against PM, govt deemed as having resigned' – New Straits Times, 16 December 2022

71. 'Anwar Cabinet agrees to enable automatic citizenship for children born overseas to Malaysian mums' – MalayMail, 18 February 2023
72. 'Separation of powers of A-G, citizenship status issue top Azalina's to-do list' – New Straits Times, 3 December 2022
73. 'Azalina: Constitution to be amended to allow mothers to grant citizenship' – New Straits Times, 4 January 2023.
74. 'Address plight of all stateless children, Suhakam tells govt' – FreeMalaysiaToday, 19 February 2023
75. 'Home minister: Special committee set up to look into all citizenship matters' – MalayMail, 9 January 2023
76. 'Death penalty laws to be amended in February, says minister' – Free Malaysia Today, 21 December 2022
77. 'Govt to table 7 bills related to abolition of mandatory death penalty in Dewan Rakyat next year' – New Straits Times, 21 December 2022
78. 'Govt mulls new temporary act for inmates undergoing mandatory death penalty' – New Straits Times, 14 February 2023
79. 'Saifuddin agrees to hold engagements on Sosma' – FreeMalaysiaToday, 23 December 2022
80. 'Saifuddin defends Sosma, no review in sight' – FreeMalaysiaToday, 13 December 2022
81. 'Amendments to Whistleblower Act being studied' – 15 February 2023
82. 'Sabah gets cabinet nod to regulate own gas supply' – New Straits Times, 21 December 2022
83. 'Sabah, S'wak to get full autonomy over development projects under RM50 mil: PM' – The Vibes, 4 January 2023
84. 'Fadillah: MA63 rights to be implemented quickly' – The Star, 5 January 2023
85. Press statement from the office of the Law and Institutions Reform Ministry under the Prime Minister's Office – 9 January 2023
86. 'LGBT, secularism, communism will never be recognised in unity govt - PM Anwar' – New Straits Times (source: Bernama), 7 January 2023
87. 'International human rights watchdog urges Anwar administration to speed up legal reform on death penalty, free speech, refugee and LGBT rights' – MalayMail, 12 January 2023
88. 'M'sian PM Anwar Ibrahim says he won't consider GST until income levels rise' – Mothership, 2 February 2023