

MEDIA STATEMENT RELEASED BY TINDAK MALAYSIA

REDELINEATION AND SEAT INCREASE: MUST BE BASED ON FAIRNESS, NOT RACE AND RELIGION

We were appalled by the recent [call](#) for seat increase and redelineation based on race and religion by the PAS Central Committee Member, Khairuddin Aman Razali. As he is the Minister of Plantation and Industries, his views are detrimental to the country, party and the coalition that he is with. A similar [call](#) was echoed by the Vice President of PAS, Datuk Nik Amar Abdullah where additional seats to be added for Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Kedah to increase number of Malay representatives in the Parliament. Khairuddin's call to increase parliamentary seats for Malay majority areas and redelineation to benefit a certain group goes against the very principle of Article 8 (1) of the Federal Constitution – where all Malaysians are equal under the law. While we acknowledge the flawed nature of the current constitutional principles of redelineation, the aim of any given redelineation is to comply with the Thirteenth Schedule. We must consider two key tenets of the Thirteenth Schedule in relation to this uncalled proposal by Khairuddin: respecting equality of voters in a given State and maintenance of local ties. Historically, race based redelineations in Malaysia have created runaway malapportionment crisis in the country and systematic disregard of local ties. Khairuddin's proposal is similar to the Hindraf's call of creation of seven Indian majority seats in 2019, which we openly

[rejected](#)

that idea. The creation of Indian majority or Malay majority seats (using the logic of the calls of Khairuddin and Hindraf) opens for more malapportionment and gerrymandering in the country. Race or religious based redelineation deepens the existing ethno-religious polarisation in Malaysia, which we are strongly opposed to. Moreover, race based redelineations works on a flawed logic where beneficiary group will vote along same lines for the given area and time. The 2018 race based redelineation serves a timely reminder that it is possible for the one who rigs the boundary to lose the elections. Compounded with the fact that the First Past the Post system is very vulnerable to electoral boundary rigging, the call for race based redelineation ought to be rejected outright.

A seat increase and subsequently, the redelineation by the seat increase should only be considered for the following reasons:

- 1) Changing of the electoral system to Mixed Member Proportional;
- 2) Conducted in tandem with comprehensive institutional reforms through constitutional amendments;
- 3) Consider the impact of the new size of electorate after the implementation of Undi18.

Following on from the reasons above, we have propose that a future redelineation should be done with these considerations:

- 1) federal and state constituencies shall have electorate size no more than +/-15% of state average for states of Peninsular Malaysia and no more than +/-25% of state average for Sabah and Sarawak;
- 2) constituencies ought to be drawn so that fragmentation of geographically concentrated minorities are avoided and coincide with communities of interest;
- 3) constituencies ought to respect local authority boundaries

Race and religious based redelineation should not be tolerated as it will accentuate unnecessary deep divisions in society. A fair redelineation process that respects the principles of equality and local ties will lay the foundation for more level political competition field and ensuring accessibility for voters with their elected representatives.

Tindak Malaysia

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