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## DEMOCRATIZATION AND MATURE ELECTIONS: A STUDY OF YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN VOTERS 18 AND AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

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### Abstract:

The discussion in this paper pertains to the issue of Voters 18 and Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). The issues refined in this debate include: (1) The efforts of democratization that is mature, fair, and equitable elections to advance social and political development; (2) Studies on the impact of youth political participation in the General Election (GE); (3) Justification of the enforcement & implementation of Vote 18; (4) Improvisation of the work of the election series; and (5) Jurisdiction and responsibility of the Election Commission (EC). This paper uses secondary sources, such as research results published in journals, scholarly writing, online news sources, and public forums, to employ a qualitative methodology. The results of the study indicate that the participation of 18-year-old voters is an important factor in the formation of a government capable of representing the interests of all age groups and the community as a whole. It is hoped that the young generation or youth will now exercise their rights with maturity, discernment, and efficiency. Voting is a personal decision, and there is no incorrect vote, but all young Malaysians should have the right to vote. The future of the nation can be influenced by the rationale behind efforts to involve the youth in political power determination. Thus, the elaboration research of this study should concentrate on the significance of political system, state government, and the federal constitution education for the young generation in order to prepare them to participate in general elections.

### Keywords:

Elections, Voters 18, Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), Youth Politics, Democracy

## Introduction

Malaysia is a country with a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy as the foundation of its government. As a nation that employs a democratic form of government, the election system provides a forum for the people to come together and influence the direction of the government. Although there are a variety of other ways to demonstrate people's participation in the national government system, elections are the most common and frequently used by Malaysians. Other than elections, the supremacy of the constitution is regarded as the most influential factor in determining the direction of a country, such as Malaysia (Ibrahim, Ationg, Esa, Abang Muis, Othman, Yusoff & Mokhtar, 2021a). In other words, efforts toward democratisation and elections that are mature, fair, and equitable must be prioritised to advance social and political development in accordance with the changing times. Elections can be considered the pinnacle of democracy in Malaysia (Esa, Sansalu & Tamring, 2011; Sansalu, Esa, Karulus, & Mohd Tamring, 2015). Consequently, the 2019 Bill (RUU) Article 119 Amendment becomes a manifestation of the process of democratisation by lowering the voting and contesting age limit from 21 to 18 years (Mohamad Noor & Awang Besar, 2020). The passage of the Vote 18 Bill (RUU) by the Malaysian Parliament on 6 July 2019 marked a turning point in the process of democratisation of Malaysian citizens.

The Vote 18 Bill (RUU) allows citizens aged 18 and older to vote and run for office in elections (Berita Harian, 2019). It also captures the historic moment when the proposal was unanimously approved without any abstentions on 25 July 2019 by the National Assembly (Berita Harian, 2019). As a result of the decision to lower the voting age to 18, at least 1.2 million new voters will register each year (Berita Harian, 2019). However, the debate in this paper attempts to determine whether the announcement of lowering the voting age limit from 21 years to 18 years will have a significant impact on the electoral system in Malaysia and the rationale behind the announcement. In the context of this paper's discussion, the government's decision to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 and to implement automatic voter registration was met with diverse reactions. This initiative is considered a good idea if it can encourage the participation of young people in the formation of the government and the administration of the nation. Efforts to train and familiarise young people at a young age so that they can participate in the selection of a government that can guide and protect the general public (Othman, Esa, Abu Bakar & Mokhtar, 2021a). Then, the generation's participation in political matters can increase their knowledge of transparent and fair democratic practises (Mazli, Mamat, Abdul Razak & Abdul Rashid, 2016).

On the other hand, narrow-minded individuals, particularly parents who clearly oppose state involvement with their children. According to them, 18 is too young to be exposed to national politics. Even though their names are automatically registered as voters, the stigma has the indirect effect of discouraging young people from exercising their voting rights. This paper's argument is based on the election as an integral part of the country's democratic system for choosing its own government. This is a procedure in which the people choose their leaders and political parties that they feel are the most qualified and best to form the government (Othman, Yusoff, Mohd Shah, Esa, Ationg, Ibrahim & Raymond Majumah, 2021b). Every time an election is held, the opposing political party must put up the best candidate to ensure that the people vote for them. At the same time, voters have their own criteria to choose a candidate apart from the candidate's credibility in implementing parliamentary democracy. Thus,

Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy that implements parliamentary democracy (Ab. Aziz, 2018).

In Malaysia's parliamentary democracy, only legitimate political parties that win general elections every five years will be allowed to sit in parliament and rule the government. The modus operandi of the general election uses the way of choosing candidates to fill positions in the legislature and local government bodies by using the people's votes in the election (Esa, 2020; Esa., Othman, Ationg, Ibrahim, Adam, Hamid, & Hajimin, 2021a). This leads to an interesting discussion when the young generation often known as youth is the largest demographic in our society today with different behavioural and cultural characteristics. In many ways whether from the aspect of position, role and involvement of youth is influenced by the structure and system of community life. Therefore, there is no denying that the future leadership of the country lies in the hands of today's youth. They are the ones who will determine whether political parties and leaders in this country fail or rise. The impact leads to voluntary participation and visionary involvement of youth in elections is critical in determining which party will rule the country (Abdul Hadi & Rahman, 2013).

While the Election Commission or known as EC is the body that manages elections. The Malaysian Election Commission was established on 4 September 1957 in accordance with Article 114 of the Malaysian Constitution (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022, Esa, Ationg, Othman, Raymond Majumah, Abu Bakar, Mohd Shah & Yusoff, 2021b). This commission has the role of managing the elections for the Dewan Rakyat (Esa, 2012). This commission also manages elections in 13 State Legislative Assemblies where elections in all states in Malaysia are managed by the EC (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). All names of candidates for 13 states and voters are registered by the EC. IT is also responsible for determining the boundaries for elections in each state (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). It is common knowledge that there are two types of elections in Malaysia, namely General Elections and By-elections. This General Election is held once in 5 years after the Parliament or State Assembly is dissolved. By-elections are held when there is a vacancy in the Parliament or State Legislative Assembly due to death, resignation, disqualification and annulment of election results by the Election Court (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). Voters-18 were approved in the Bill when they obtained more than two third of the votes in the House of Representatives. The registration of these 18 voters came into force on 15 December 2021 (Bernama, 2021). In addition, the Automatic Voter Registration i.e. AVR is eligible for Malaysian citizens who have complete information in the records of the National Registration Department (NRD) will be registered as voters who do not need to apply at the Election Commission.

### **Literature Review**

The efforts of mature, fair, and equitable elections to drive the progress of social and political development in accordance with the changing times are crucial (Mohd Nizah & Abu Bakar, 2019). The initiative of the government to make democratisation and elections successful was successful when the voting and contesting age limit was lowered from 21 to 18 years. The 18-year-old vote to be allowed to vote and be a candidate in the election was approved by Parliament through a Bill on 16 July 2019, and it was approved unanimously and without opposition by the National Assembly on 25 July 2019 (Berita Harian, 2019). However, participation in the youth group is discouraging. They are less interested in becoming involved in matters of statehood if they are not exposed to politics at a young age (Ahmad Sabri, Abdul

Aziz, Shafie & Nordin, 2014). The approval of Vote 18 by the Dewan Rakyat raises questions, particularly concerning knowledge, interest, attitude, and capability. According to a 2018 report, approximately 20 percent of Malaysia's 14 million eligible voters, or 3.6 million young voters, have not yet registered (Berita Harian, 2018). This implies that the participation of 18-year-olds and automatic voter registration are influencing the vote percentage.

Voters of 18 years of age and automatic registration should be conscious of their role towards the nation when they have a high degree of responsibility in participating in the election of the right government and in accordance with their preferences. The Johor State Election (PRN) on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 yielded an unsatisfactory percentage, as the voter turnout was lower than anticipated. Professor Dr. Sivamurugan Pandian drew public attention through the Political Analysis of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) to the turnout statistics for Vote 18 indicating that of the 54.92 percent total turnout, less than five percent was recorded by the EC (Sinar Harian, 2022). It is evident that without the participation of 18-year-old voters, the voting success rate can be negatively affected. Through the media statement, their reasoning for why the incident occurred was also stated. The mindset phenom becomes an observer and believes that it is preferable to remain silent and avoid getting involved in national political issues, even if they involve the fundamental rights of citizens, such as voting (Esa, Ationg, Othman, Mohd Shah, Yusoff, Ramlie & Abang Muis, 2021c). In actuality, the action is detrimental, as the benefit of lowering the voting age should be more enticing to increase youth participation in democracy and national economic development. The denial marginalises rights and is incapable of enhancing the youth's democratic literacy and maturity through exposure to national governance.

The study of the impact of youth political participation in the General Election (GE) is viewed within the context of the effectiveness of democracy in a country where the principle of freedom not to vote should not be fostered to the point where it undermines democracy itself. Next, study conducted by Mohd Basori and Awang Besar (2020) relates to Youth Politics and the 14th General Election in Malaysia. The 14th General Election (GE) of 2018 was held on May 9, 2018. The General Election made history when the *Barisan Nasional* Government, which had ruled for 61 years, was defeated (Mohd Basori & Awang Besar, 2020). *Pakatan Harapan*, which is comprised of *Bersatu*, *DAP*, *PKR*, and *AMANAH*, succeeded in forming a government for the first time in the last 13 general elections (Mohd Basori & Awang Besar, 2020). The results of a study based on the distribution of questionnaires to a total of 96,684 youth respondents in Malaysia indicate that the youth group is becoming more willing to change if their desires and aspirations are not met by their leaders (Mohd Basori & Awang Besar, 2020). Given that this generation of young people owns the future of the nation, they are the generation with the largest stake in the future. The youth group has the highest proportion of undecided voters and, as a result, determines which political party wins in Malaysia.

Numerous national political analysts were interested in the 26th General Election's emphasis on the role of the media and voter's behaviour issues (Hamedan, Shekh ALSagoff & Ahmad Ghazali, 2019). The global community is now synonymous with the use of social media as a source of political information, as opposed to traditional media. The news coverage and content of issues discussed on social media have had some influence on how individuals think. The questionnaire was chosen as the research instrument for the quantitative study by Hamedan, Shekh ALSagoff and Ahmad Ghazali, (2019). A total of 200 respondents, comprising males

(44.0%) and females (56.0%), were selected at random from the Klang Valley region. 36.0% of the voters in this election were first-time voters, totaling 72 individuals. This study found that respondents strongly agree that social media is the primary medium for accessing election-related information (mean = 4.50). In addition, respondents strongly agreed (mean = 4.75) that rising prices of goods and gasoline were a burden for Malaysians. This study's findings also indicate that respondents read newspapers online to learn about emerging issues (mean = 4.50). (Hamedan, Shekh ALSagoff & Ahmad Ghazali, 2019).

In addition, the case study conducted by Ismail and Mohd Noor (2021), on the observation of domestic elections aims to assess the potential and challenges in the operation of the academic group's observer team. Compared to election monitoring groups with political affiliations and partisan reputations, such as clean and fair election coalition (BERSIH) 2.0, traditional NGOs, and shadow observation groups, academic observation teams are viewed as more capable of providing constructive and balanced input to the process. Election monitoring (Ismail & Mohd Noor, 2021). Nonetheless, this is also influenced by the selection of committed and non-partisan members of the observation team, the support provided by an educational institution, and the additional support provided by EC. On the basis of the model that has been implemented in neighbouring countries such as Indonesia and Thailand, the formation of a more comprehensive election observation team comprised of academics prior to GE-15 is also a possibility (Ismail & Mohd Noor, 2021).

Justification in the enforcement and implementation of Vote-18 attracted the attention of several researchers in Malaysia and foreign countries. One of them is the study by Mohamad Noor and Awang Besar (2020), regarding the perception of the lowering of the voting age limit from 21 years to 18 years conducted by the Dengkil State Legislative Assembly. The study shows the opinions and reactions of the youth towards the lowering of the voting age. It was discovered that respondents' views on lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 years old were influenced by factors such as knowledge and understanding of politics, general opinion on political knowledge, awareness of politics, the role of institutions and the media in applying political literacy, an understanding of 'democracy,' and the significance of elections for a democratic count. Clearly, the lowering of the voting age creates diverse perceptions within the community, with some parties agreeing and others disagreeing with the implementation. According to the findings of the study, only 29.6% of respondents agreed with the implementation of a lower voting age limit, while 46.9% of respondents disagreed (Mohamad Noor & Awang Besar, 2020). Therefore, it is inappropriate for us to generalise that all young people are immature, as there are also older individuals who lack maturity in decision-making (Mohamad Noor & Awang Besar, 2020).

In addition, Zainon, Nadeya, Hashim and Zulkifli (2017), study discusses issues pertaining to the political voice of young Malaysians involving online political participation among university students, shedding light on the extent to which university students' involvement in politics through online participation influences election outcomes in Malaysia. The results of the study indicate that students at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UITM) have a high level of online political engagement, which is influenced by internet skills, political interest, and social media communication. Next, young adults between the ages of 22 and 25 are the most politically active, comprising 64.9 percent of respondents, while those between the ages of 18 and 21 comprise only 25.9 percent of respondents. This gives the impression that young people between the ages of 18 and 21 are disinterested and uninterested in participating in politics,



when compared to the previous voting age limit of 21 years and older. The study's findings support the position advanced by Hands (1992), who specifically examines contentious issues and controversies in British electoral behaviour.

In this context, political literacy is defined as knowledge and understanding of the political process and political issues, knowledge and understanding that enable every citizen in a country to fulfil their responsibilities as a citizen (Raymond Majumah, Ationg, Esa, Abang Muis, Othman, Mokhtar & Muda, 2021). According to Hands (1992) this role includes political expertise and political awareness, which refers to the extent to which a citizen knows and comprehends the political situation in a country. Thus, Hands explains clearly that political literacy is essential to the formation of a citizen's role in carrying out the responsibilities of citizenship on the territory they occupy. While Carol, Cassel and Cella (1997) state that political literacy cannot be measured directly, it is assumed that politically literate individuals comprehend party differences and are familiar with fundamental political concepts and facts. The highlighted concept recognises the contribution of political expertise, political awareness, and civic competence to the cognitive drive of voters, which has the greatest impact on political literacy, followed by the role of a just structure (Carol, Cassel & Cella, 1997).

Improvisation of the work force of the election series as stated by Lee, Idris and Idris (2018), explained the occurrence of propaganda and changes in political perception in the 14th General Election (GE-14) in Malaysia. This happened when GE-14 on 9 May 2018 saw *Barisan Nasional* (BN), which has a record of always winning in elections since the establishment of the Federation of Malaysia, was defeated by the alliance party *Pakatan Harapan* (PH) led by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (Lee, Idris & Idris, 2018). The new history of the country was recorded when the opposition party succeeded in the election for the first time, thus showing that the thinking pattern of the people, especially the young people, has changed in electing the government (Ibrahim, Ationg, Esa, Othman, Mokhtar & Abang Muis, 2021b). In that context, the role of the media is said to be a contributing factor to voters' thinking during GE-14. The presence of social media has caused BN to be unable to win GE-14 when Malaysians were presented with unpleasant information regarding the background and performance of previous BN leaders. Social media such as WhatsApp, blogs, and Facebook influence people's perceptions of the BN party's wrongdoing.

In the past, it was reasonable to question the authority of government party leaders on account of matters such as the GST and 1MDB, which were associated with a breach of trust. People are now more likely to vote for parties that will abolish the GST so that the price of goods does not increase. Awang Besar (2019) argued that a political shift occurred in the 14th general election (GE) of 2018 when BN was defeated by *Parti Keadilan Rakyat* (PKR). While the results of the 2018 general election seemed to be unusual, this indicated that there was a surge or revival of so-called "silent voters" (Awang Besar, 2019). Using primary data, the 2018 GE results demonstrated that the main reason for BN's defeat at the central level and in the states of Johor, Perak, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Kedah and Sabah were the voters' determination to topple BN first in order to change the government system and repair the micro and macro economy (Awang Besar, 2019). The issue of corruption, cronyism, and nepotism, as well as the leader's own self-interest, were the root of the people's dissatisfaction regarding the misappropriation of national treasures and assets.

In addition, the country's economic recession contributed to BN's defeat. The implementation of GST places the burden and high cost of living on the people, despite the fact that the BN government claims to be attempting to mobilise the people to assist in developing the nation (Awang Besar, 2019). Malaysians' mentality, emotions, perceptions, well-being, and harmony have been affected by this protracted and unresolved issue. People viewed the GST issue as an attempt by the BN government to mobilise the general public in support of the government's efforts to develop the nation. When the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced, propaganda deceived the public against the GST, which was intended to benefit the public. The BN government pledged to return the GST revenue to the people in the form of BR1M, infrastructure development, mega projects, and other forms of welfare assistance (Awang Besar, 2019). This resulted in opposition from the populace, who felt that the government should concentrate on developing the nation without imposing a GST. For the benefit of the people, the government should seek to attract foreign investors to invest in our country or take economic actions that generate national income.

To add, Boyman and Jawan (2013) conducted a study on enhancing the Election Commission's mode of operation. In the study, there are actions and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Electoral Authority for the Improvement of the Election Process (JPKPPP), which was created and established on 3 October 2011 and included a brief comparison based on the experience in a number of selected countries (Boyman & Jawan, 2013). Through the research conducted, recommendations will be made to further strengthen the Malaysian electoral process. Next Ismail and Mohd Noor (2021), study pertains to the concept of domestic election observers in Malaysia. The results of the 14th General Election (GE-14) that took place on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 represent a milestone in the development of democracy in Malaysia, which is when there is a peaceful transfer of power through an election system. From GE-12 to GE-14, the national election system introduced the concept of domestic election observers (Ismail & Mohd Noor, 2021). On the basis of Indonesian and Thai models, the formation of a comprehensive academic election observation team is also a possibility that can be explored. In addition, Mohamed Amin (2020), research focused on the Election Commission in the Malaysian election system, which is more fair, clean, and systematic. The results of the study indicate that elections serve as a vital tool, indicating that a country does not only practise democracy when its citizens have the right to vote for their representatives and directly choose the political party that will form the government. From the perspective of testing the existing role and strategy implemented by the EC in achieving a clean, fair, and systematic election, it was determined that the EC had applied laws, regulations, and established key elements that must be adhered to when conducting elections.

### **Methodology**

This paper uses secondary sources, such as research results published in journals, scholarly writing, online news sources, and public forums, to employ a qualitative methodology. The results of the study indicate that the participation of 18-year-old voters is an important factor in the formation of a government capable of representing the interests of all age groups and the community as a whole. This discussion examines the findings of a secondary study on youth political participation in Voters 18 and PPSA Automatic Voter Registration. The results of the study indicate that the participation of 18-year-old voters is an important factor in the formation of a government capable of representing the interests of all age groups and the community as a whole.

## **Discussion of Issues**

The issues refined in this debate include whether the efforts of democratization that is mature, fair, and equitable elections to advance social and political development. It also discussing studies on the impact of youth political participation in the General Election (GE). Further discussion on the justification of the enforcement & implementation of Vote-18 and the need for improvisation of the work of the election series, as well jurisdiction and responsibility of the Election Commission (EC).

### ***Issue of Voters 18 and Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)***

It is believed that the Issue of Votes-18 and AVR contributed to the decrease in voting percentage caused by individuals whose names appeared on the list of eligible voters but who did not vote (49). According to the report, 3,6 million students at local colleges and universities do not fulfil their voting responsibilities (Berita Harian, 2018a). The unwillingness to participate in politics has significant effects on the government that has been elected for at least five years (Gill, Talib, Harun & Rosnon, 2012). With the political upheaval in the country, an attitude of condescension toward the youth will produce individuals with a lack of concern and a weak sense of identity. In addition to projecting a negative image of irresponsibility, ignorance of national issues is detrimental to the unity and patriotism of the parliamentary democracy-based nation of Malaysia (Mahmood, 2017). Using the experience of nations that allow 18-year-olds to vote and AVR, the younger generation has the advantage of maturity over early exposure to the current political scene, which gives rise to a newer perspective on the political scene in the country (Mahmood, 2017).

There is no doubt that the education system in Malaysia is one of the best in the world because it enables students to think critically and have a strong sense of direction. Therefore, this early exposure can benefit the election of a series of governments from 18-year-olds who can provide opinions and make the correct choice (Othman, Ibrahim, Esa, Ationg, Mokhtar, Mohd Tamring & Sharif Adam, 2021c). In addition, they can train themselves to become accustomed to the political world so that they do not experience culture shock when they are tasked with assisting the nation in making prudent decisions regarding future interests, such as general elections. The stigma of a few individuals who oppose the opportunity for young people to exercise their responsibilities as voters stems from the thoughts and influence of those in their immediate environment, particularly family and friends. In addition to the unfounded false information of the mass media, it also influences the individual's thinking to the point where they do not want to be responsible for voting where they obtain information from unreliable sources (Hamid, & Rahman, 2018). The dissemination of false information online also poses a significant obstacle to the implementation of the voters-18 and AVR. False information can influence an individual's decision to avoid political activities that are deemed unimportant and time-wasting.

### ***Democratization Efforts Through a Mature, Fair and Equitable Election Campaign***

#### ***Voter Responsibilities in Education Literacy***

Among the advantages of democratisation efforts over face-to-face campaigning, is the capability of face-to-face campaigning to build character and produce responsible voters. It also increases interest and awareness among voters to exercise their responsibilities as voters in order to foster a sense of identity regarding the element of accountability to the nation in the election of leaders and parties that represent the government (Othman, Mohd Shah, Yusoff, Abu Bakar, Zulhaimi, Abang Muis & Muda, 2021f). Face-to-face campaigning has a profound



impact and is well-received because people have the opportunity to meet the candidate leaders in person and give them due consideration when making voting decisions. Compared to virtual campaigns, there is a greater risk when voters are susceptible to manipulation through false or even slanderous information. When information in social media contains purely speculative elements, its veracity is frequently questioned (Hamid & Rahman, 2018).

In addition, new voters must be persuaded of the significance of participating in the electoral process because the outcomes will affect their lives in the future. Candidates and parties who will compete in the future must emphasise this crucial aspect. This segment of the electorate must be made aware that their decisions will influence the formulation and implementation of policies, thereby affecting their socioeconomic conditions. Where each representative elected to the State Assembly will be responsible for determining the direction of the state's development through the policies proposed by the governing party. Obviously, it is also the responsibility of the Election Commission (EC), government agencies, community bodies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to increase the interest and awareness of voters to participate in elections. The face-to-face campaign is an attempt to educate voters about their responsibilities. It is crucial that the sense of responsibility that exists in every layer of society be emphasised during the campaign period preceding voting.

#### ***Compliance with the Election Offenses Act 1954 (Act 5)***

All campaigning activities must also adhere to the European Union's regulations and the laws of this country. Political parties and candidates must comply with the rules pertaining to misconduct and corrupt activities outlined in sections 7 to 11 of the Electoral Offenses Act 1954 (Act 5) (Mohd Noor, Ismail & Mohamed Noor, 2020). Compliance with laws, regulations, and campaign ethics is essential for the election process to proceed without incident. All forms of campaigning should also be capable of showcasing and symbolising Malaysia's mature political culture and the behaviour of civilised Malaysians. Although election campaigns and political discussions can be viewed as a forum for the expression of opinions and freedom of expression, the right to freedom of expression is not absolute. The freedom of speech granted by the United States Constitution is subject to certain restrictions, controls, or limitations, and politicians must recognise this crucial fact.

In the context of Malaysia's pluralistic society, the restrictions are imposed to ensure harmony, unity, and security of the country. Consequently, sensitive issues or topics that can cause confusion and tension in the country should be avoided during campaigns (Mohd Noor, Ismail & Mohamed Noor, 2020). Thus, visibility of Malay language to unite solidarity of our nation is utmost importance during election campaign (Othman, Esa, Ationg & Muda, 2021g; Esa, Ationg, Othman & Jupiter, 2021f; Yusoff, Othman, Jupiter & Mokhtar, 2021a). Face-to-face campaigning benefits the community and politicians; when all parties comply with ethics and rules, potential voters become more persuaded.

#### ***Strategies to Increase the Popularity of a Candidate***

Strategies to increase the popularity of a candidate still maintaining the old campaigning methods such as posters, flags, and leaflets are expected to continue to be popular and enliven the atmosphere in general elections, which have been held since 1955 (Enh & Samak, 2020). Involvement in physical activity awards bonus points when voters get to know the candidates who will compete in the future. Whereas in today's scenario, election campaigns are conducted in the cyber world, which has added a new dimension to campaigning, the strategy of delivering

information to influence human thought can also be altered (Hamedan, Shekh ALSagoff & Ahmad Ghazali, 2019). Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram serve as a new platform for leaders to reach a larger number of voters (Hamedan, Shekh ALSagoff & Ahmad Ghazali, 2019). Unfortunately, cyberspace campaigning has received little response because the majority of social media users are adolescents who are less interested in surfing and less concerned with national issues, including elections.

In order to achieve this face-to-face campaign vote, it is possible to increase a candidate's popularity and increase public awareness of the candidate due to the candidate's participation in campaigning for voters to select him. Moreover, face-to-face campaigns can generate a great deal of community interest in the candidates because candidates who are going to compete in the field and are able to give speeches and manifestos to the people also participate in the campaign (Enh & Samak, 2020). Consequently, a candidate will be better known, and his popularity will continue to rise if he runs a face-to-face campaign as opposed to an online campaign.

#### ***Leader's Credibility and Charisma through Political Attitude and Political Behaviour***

The term mature refers to the cognitive maturity of an individual. Due to this, a person's political maturity is also correlated with his level of political literacy. Political maturity is also associated with an individual's political attitude and political behaviour (Awang Besar, 2019). A person's political maturity can be assessed based on the views or actions he expresses on political issues in particular or the state in general, as well as his emotional stability and willingness to accept criticism from other parties (Othman, Ationg, Esa, Hajimin & Abang Muis, 2021d). The foundation is how a person manages differences through high civilizational values (Abd Razak, 2009). There are still a few respectable and distinguished leaders in this country who can be observed in relation to this matter. Prior to electing a nation's leader, the attitude of well-known politicians is a crucial factor for voters (Ibrahim & Abdul Azzis, 2022a). This issue is closely related to the campaign, in that through face-to-face campaigns, we can determine whether the political attitude is positive or negative.

Through face-to-face campaigns, we will see how politicians perform their duties to persuade voters to support their candidates. In contrast to the virtual online campaign, it is difficult for the public to observe and assess the political party. Not to mention that they are unaware of whether or not the leader they will elect has the soul of the people (Mohd Nizah & Mohamad Sharif, 2019). Moreover, political maturity among the younger generation is one of the ongoing political challenges that require continued attention. This is an important challenge for ensuring the stability of a pluralistic society-reliant nation (Mohd Nizah & Mohamad Sharif, 2019).

#### ***Justification of Enforcement and Implementation of Vote -18***

Democracy is generally known as a system based on the choice made by the majority of citizens who are eligible to vote (Aziz, 2014). In a democratic system, elections are one of the important elements in determining the level of democracy in a country. "Democracy is the government of the people, by the people and for the people", is a principle showing that in a country, the people determine the form of government they want and have the freedom to vote for a political party. The practice of freedom includes the right to vote and also the right not to vote. In democratic elections, the right to vote is given to eligible citizens when they reach a voting age (Mohd Hed & Grasso, 2019).

This solidarity synergies include giving people the freedom to express their opinions or thoughts as long as they do not violate federal constitutional laws nor the harmonization of the nation (Othman, Yusoff, Jupiter & Mokhtar, 2021e). Under the provisions of the law, the state cannot compel or coerce every eligible voter to vote. However, in the context of the effectiveness of democracy in a country, the principle of the right to abstain from voting should not be promoted to the point where it undermines democracy. This is because, as responsible citizens, voting is one of the things we can do to help the country become more developed and effective.

Vote-18 is an initiative created and coordinated to select and form a government or government involving Malaysians aged 18 or older (Mohamad Noor & Awang Besar, 2020). Previously, only adults over the age of 21 were permitted and entrusted with the responsibility to vote; however, a new policy has been formed and agreed upon to allow 18-year-olds to participate in the election vote to choose representatives to manage Malaysian government and administration. The lowering of the voting age to 18 provides these youth with an opportunity to choose their leaders. This news has dismayed many, particularly the political party group, as they believe this group is unqualified to be given the responsibility. They claim that this group is still young and in the process of determining their interests and life's direction and almost clueless to economically manage their money matters, let alone to be responsible for a nation (Yusoff, Othman, Mohd Shah, Esa, Zulhazmi, Ibrahim & Ationg, 2021b).

Therefore, this issue causes concern for this group if the state's responsibility is combined with that of the youth. For their benefit, the government should conduct research and develop a profitable business model such as the relevance of introducing the National Entrepreneurship Policy (NEP) 2030 in meeting the needs and strengthening the country's entrepreneurial ecosystem (Othman, Mokhtar, Maidin & Moharam, 2021i; Mohd Shah, Othman, Yusoff, Ationg, Abu Bakar, Esa, & Abang Muis, 2021). There are those who believe that if this right is granted to young people, the government will appoint the person with the least integrity as a leader after they have been elected through elections, and that they are too young to understand the political situation of the country to make important decisions regarding the future of the country.

This statement displays contempt for the youth of Malaysia, where a great number of young people possess extraordinary talent and are capable of shouldering this responsibility. According to Syed Saddiq (2019), the issue of maturity is not the most important factor in increasing the voting age to 18 years old (Astro Awani, 2019). On the other hand, society should concentrate on the benefits of granting young people the right to vote. This is due to the fact that the issue of youth is always taken for granted and their opinions are not considered by political parties, causing this group to feel abandoned. As a nation committed to the concept of democracy, the right to vote should be unrestricted, with no restrictions on voting requirements based on age especially those age falls under those who are entering varsities and expose to global educational exposure (Othman, Yusoff, Awang & Jupiter, 2016b). When compared to other nations that have validated the age of 18 for voting and participation in the national democratic process, this action bolsters the credibility of young people. Considering young people as immature is an underestimation of their ability to determine the reins of government in a democratic nation.

On the other hand, by implementing changes and presenting them with this challenge, we are able to demonstrate that young people in Malaysia are indeed of high calibre and capable of making better future decisions or political changes (Ationg, Esa, Othman, Mohd Shah, Yusoff, Ramlie & Mokhtar, 2021a). Because they have been exposed to a variety of current knowledge and information through the mass media, young people are more open-minded and mature than the previous generation. In addition, the rationale for enforcing and implementing this 18th vote is that it gives young people or teenagers the freedom to choose the leader they believe is most qualified to govern the country effectively. In such a case, there will be a change in the national administration based on the votes of the youth group, whose members are known to possess expansive and farsighted perspectives (Othman, Yusoff, Awang & Jupiter, 2016). In addition, the youth are able to feel satisfied and proud because they believe they have contributed to making Malaysia a more developed and comparable nation to other developed nations. This also indirectly creates a group of teenagers with strong democratic and nationalistic values.

### ***Improvisation of the Work Force of the Election Series***

The issue discussed focuses on the mistakes made in the election series. There is an offense in the election series which is taking pictures of ballot papers (Hamedan, Shekh ALSagoff, & Ahmad Ghazali, 2019). The Malaysian Election Commission (EC) advises all voters who vote by post both in the country and abroad not to take pictures of any documents such as ballot papers, forms or envelopes related to the general election. It is claimed that this is the case because election-related documents are confidential and cannot be disclosed in any way. For instance, voters who disseminate election-related documents on social media platforms such as Facebook, Whatsapp, or any other form of communication are engaging in improper behaviour. In addition, the media has a substantial impact on elections. According to Bahsky et al. (2012), Facebook is a digital network with high levels of political sentiment among its users due to the fact that images related to general election documents can be disseminated publicly, where all people on earth can view them (Hamedan, Shekh ALSagoff, & Ahmad Ghazali, 2019).

In this context, it is clear that the media plays a crucial role in disseminating both positive and negative news about government actions. This issue may have an impact on the general election conducted in our country, in which the voting public can determine whether an individual chooses the opposition or the ruling party. We are aware that our vote is confidential and cannot be disclosed to any party. Any party that commits this offence may be prosecuted under Section 3 of the Electoral Offences Act of 1954 (Act 5). Clearly, taking a photo of the ballot is a grave error, as it has undermined our faith in the democratic process. In addition, a violation of election regulations constitutes corruption. This is supported by Section 3 of the Election Offences Act of 1954, which describes acts of corruption. A candidate who bribes voters to support his party commits a serious crime. When corruption occurs in the election process, the country's reputation can be tarnished.

For instance, in GE-14, the victory of Barisan Nasional candidate Datuk C Sivarraajh in the Cameron Highlands Parliament was annulled due to corruption (Berita Harian, 2018b). There is evidence that this candidate engaged in corrupt practises when he gave money during the campaign to influence voters to vote for him. In this context, it is evident that a few candidates are attempting to gain a position in government affairs by using their wealth and money arbitrarily. The political system of a Malaysian state may be affected if candidates win seats due to corruption-related issues. This is stated because candidates do not care about helping

the people and only seek power. This may affect the safety and order of the people if the political system is weak. The majority of the population will revolt against the minister; hence the minister will likely be fired. The government should accept the outcome of the election regardless of whether it wins or loses. The trait that should be instilled in the leader is to always act with integrity, transparency, and dependability.

Leaders should demonstrate their contributions to the country and the people, rather than bribing them to vote for them, so that the people will choose the right leader (Abang Muis, Esa, Ibrahim, Othman, Mokhtar, Ationg & Mohd Shah, 2021). In addition, leaders implicated in corruption are ineligible to run for GE15 (Berita Harian, 2018b). Next, the election series offence involving technical errors or violations of election regulations is the wearing of party-logoed clothing. This topic may be foreign to the majority of individuals, but this offence is a serious offence. At the polling station or within 50 metres of the polling station during the general election, it is strictly prohibited to wear or carry anything with a candidate's name, emblem, or symbol for any political party (Hamedan, Shekh ALSagoff, & Ahmad Ghazali, 2019). In addition, this issue is codified in section 26(1) of the Election Offences Act of 1954 (Hamedan, Shekh ALSagoff, & Ahmad Ghazali, 2019). It is evident from this context that wearing clothing with the symbol of any political party can cause sensitive issues. This is said to be the case due to the fact that wearing clothing with the logo of any political party during the general election revealed the voter's identity. We are informed that our vote is confidential and must be protected as such. We are aware that wearing the logo of a political party on one's clothing indicates support for that party.

This can cause voter problems and suspicion. Not only are voters prohibited from wearing political party shirts during elections, but candidates and even the Prime Minister are as well. This is demonstrated by the fact that Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob visited the polling station for the Kempas State Assembly seat outside the National School (SK) of Tampoi Housing 2 in Johor Bahru, which was viewed as a mistake. Leaders should not do this because wearing clothing with a political party's logo sets a bad example for the citizens. From this perspective, it is clear that the ministers are also at fault in the election act, along with the people. When a voter makes this mistake during the voting process, it can lead to rebellion if there are voters who are dressed in the attire of a different political party than the individual who is condemning their respective party. Therefore, wearing clothing with a party logo is one of the most serious offences during an election, as this offence is committed against all groups, regardless of their social standing or rank.

In addition, the employer's failure to provide sufficient time for the employee to vote constitutes an election-related offence involving technical errors or violations of election regulations. This offence can be committed by any employer who forces employees to continue working or prevents them from voting during elections (Berita Harian, 2021). Employers who violate the laws outlined in the Election Offences Act of 1954 are subject to imprisonment for up to one year or a fine not exceeding RM5,000 (Berita Harian, 2021). As a group participating in the selection of national leaders through elections, we Malaysians should not shy away from our responsibility. Employers should not be greedy in their pursuit of company profits by requiring employees to complete tasks quickly; instead, they should provide time for employees to vote in elections. Therefore, it is clear how grave an offence it is for an employer to prohibit his employees from voting, a violation punishable by monetary fines and imprisonment. In terms



of rationality, the actions taken by the election monitoring organisation in Malaysia in response to election irregularities are evident.

A group of individuals entrusted with the authority to observe and intervene in an election process is tasked with DEMOs monitoring (Ismail & Mohd Noor, 2021). This organisation is also responsible for voter discrepancies during the election. This organization's monitoring falls into three distinct categories: domestic monitoring, international monitoring, and international supervisors. There are two groups of participants in these DEMOs: the professional observer group (POG) and the shadow observer group (SOG) (Ismail & Mohd Noor, 2021). POG conducts impartial and trustworthy monitoring, and these observers always contribute to the advancement of the electoral process. SOG is capable of triggering reporting that confirms election management, where the observer is always used as a cover for all manipulations (Mohd Noor, Ismail & Mohamed Noor, 2020). From this perspective, we can conclude that *zombie* election monitoring has had an effect on enhancing elections and identifying voter mistakes. Observing *zombie* elections may discourage voters from making mistakes during the voting process due to reports of voters breaking election rules (Mohd Noor, Ismail & Mohamed Noor, 2020).

In terms of the rationality of election monitoring, it is able to curb the behaviour of election cheating parties, such as candidate agents and election officials (Ibrahim & Daud, 2014). There are obstacles in the Malaysian elections. In this context, we examine the difficulties the state of Sarawak encountered in the 14th General Election (Mansor & Awang Pawi, 2018). This study explains that Sarawak is a Barisan Nasional (BN) stronghold where this political party has never lost state or parliamentary elections (Mansor & Awang Pawi, 2018). The strength of the Barisan Nasional Sarawak (BNS) has been correlated with the notions of strongman and patron. The defeat of the Barisan Nasional in the 14th General Election (GE-14) has altered the political landscape of Malaysia and raised questions among the population regarding the failure of the Barisan Nasional Sarawak (BNS) to maintain its victory (Mansor & Awang Pawi, 2018). Since this party has developed the state of Sarawak since independence, the majority of natives in Sarawak consistently support the BN despite their indifference towards negative BN-related issues. This group does not support the opposition party because they believe it is incapable of advancing the interests of Sarawak. Sarawak's difficulties after BN lost the election and the ongoing crisis in BNS. There are still many unresolved issues among the constituent parties of Sarawak as of today.

### ***Jurisdictions and Responsibilities of the Election Commission (EC)***

There are basic matters that are duties and responsibilities that are certified under the EC, which are 4 important elements in the election, namely the electoral division, candidate selectors, candidates who will vote and election process. For electoral divisions or constituencies in Malaysia is the division of elections represented at the Federal level in the House of Representatives and the State level in the State Assembly (DUN) (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). This means that the boundaries of electoral divisions are not necessarily subject to the boundaries of administrative divisions such as districts and sub-districts. Federal Electoral Division seats (or Federal Seats) are represented by the P.xxx symbol while State Assembly seats (or DUN seats) are represented by the N.xxx symbol. In 2022, Malaysia will have 222 parliamentary seats and 600 state assembly seats in total. These Parliamentary and State Assembly constituencies have been gazetted after the re-

delimitation process of electoral constituencies in 2018 (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022).

Next, part of the function of the EC is to review the boundaries of the Parliamentary and State Electoral Divisions. The Federal Appropriations Provision gives the EC the responsibility to carry out a study in relation to the delimitation every not less than 8 years. Even so, it can be postponed if there is a major event such as a general election (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). In addition, there is also another element which is the voter. This elector must register with EC before he can vote in the elections for the House of Representatives or State Assembly. As we know, in Malaysia, a person is eligible to register if he is a Malaysian citizen, not less than 18 years old on the date of birth, a resident of any electoral division in Malaysia and not disqualified (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). The EC's final area of responsibility is the GE or PRK process, which begins with the issuance of the election writ to the Managing Officer (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022).

When the SPR publishes a notice, the dates of candidate nomination day and voting day will be set for the general public. These candidate nomination days are the days that the EC has designated for candidates to submit their nomination papers and deliver them to the Managing Officer in order to run for election. Each nomination document may be submitted by the candidate, proposer, or supporter, or by any combination of the three. Each of these nomination documents must be submitted between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the EC-designated nomination day (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). These nomination papers will be displayed between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. for examination and objections. If only one candidate receives the proposal, the Managing Officer will declare that candidate the winner without a contest (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022).

Due to the significance of the EC's responsibilities to the election process, the justification for the description is based on the four essential factors. Each significant element has its own justification, which is as follows: i) the first element relates to electoral divisions; This is because, if the EC does not identify or divide each electoral division, the electorate will freely go to polling places that have not been registered with a name (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). This will have a negative impact on both the community and the election results. The effect on the community is congestion, as the unregistered person will delay the voting process and cause confusion among the people. As a result, the vote is invalidated at the polling location due to the absence of a registered name in the EC system.

The second element is then related to the candidate selector, as indicated by the relationship between (ii) and (iii). The rationale for selecting candidates is that if a person wishes to nominate himself as one of the contesting candidates, he must meet the requirements for a contesting candidate (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). Among the requirements to be a candidate include being a Malaysian citizen residing in the Federation during the nomination process, being at least 21 years old on the day of nomination, not being disqualified to be a candidate, and depositing campaign materials. To further explain what it means to be disqualified as a candidate, this means that a person is found or certified to be mentally unfit. To add, a candidate who has declared bankruptcy or who holds an income-generating position will be disqualified. A person who has been nominated for the House of Representatives or State Assembly elections or who has acted as an Election agent for a

candidate who has been nominated and who has failed to submit a statement of election expenses as required by law within the required time period is guilty of violating the law (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022).

In addition, a person who wishes to run for office must submit the set deposit amount; if the deposit is not included in the candidate nomination process, the Managing Officer will not accept the candidate's nomination papers. The deposit for the Parliamentary Election is up to RM1000, while the deposit for the State Assembly Election is up to RM500. Candidates must pay both the deposit of election campaign materials and the deposit of election campaign materials (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). Candidates who fail to submit a deposit for campaign materials are prohibited from installing or displaying posters and election campaign materials. Nonetheless, if a person is convicted under section 102 of the Electoral Offences Act of 1954, they will be disqualified. The candidate may also be sentenced to a maximum of one year in prison or a maximum of three thousand ringgit in fines, or both. The maximum deposit for campaign materials for the Parliamentary Elections is RM 5,000, while the maximum deposit for the State Assembly Elections is RM 3,000 (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022).

Next, (iii) the third essential factor is the candidate who will vote at the polling place. Malaysia practises the principle of parliamentary democracy, in which the people elect and vote for the leader who will lead the government and serve as the people's representative in a particular constituency. This explains why there are individuals who will vote. Individuals who wish to vote must meet the voter registration eligibility requirements. The individual must be a Malaysian citizen, at least 21 years old, a resident of the electoral division in which he or she wishes to be registered, and not disqualified by the applicable law. To register as a voter, a person must come in person to a registration centre, bring an identification card, and hand it to the EC officer, who will then fill out the registration form on their behalf. Lastly, (iv) an essential component that is the journey or the election process. The purpose of this element is to guarantee a smooth election process following the dissolution of the cabinet or parliament at the conclusion of the 5-year period (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022).

In Malaysia, the process of General or By-Elections consists of six stages: issuance of writs, nomination of candidates, election campaign, voting, official tallying of votes and announcement of election results. Additionally, a campaign enforcement team (PP-KPR) will be established during the election process. The EC has the authority to appoint Empowerment Officers and form one or more Election Campaign Empowerment Teams in each parliamentary constituency to ensure the smooth election process runs smoothly. These members include an Empowerment Officer appointed pursuant to Section 3 (d) of the Elections Act, a Police Officer with a rank not lower than Inspector, a representative of the local authority, and a representative of a political party (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). They will be responsible for overseeing and monitoring all candidate activities, removing any campaign materials that violate election laws, prohibiting any speeches or lectures that violate election laws, and controlling and coordinating all campaigning activities (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022).

There are obstacles in implementing the election procedure. In the first component, elections are the constituent parts. The Electoral Commission has the authority to conduct redistricting by reviewing the electoral areas at least once every eight years, conducting voter

registration and voter check list, and ensuring the election runs smoothly as prescribed by (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia Official Portal, 2022). Even though the Constitution does not refer to the EC as a body independent of government influence, the Constitution still considers the voting area because it safeguards the EC's independence. In the interim, this Commission is also tightly controlled by an ownership body and is subject to the same procedure for replacement, as determined by the High Court.

In addition, there are additional obstacles, specifically regarding the election process. The issue of the reluctance of EC officers in charge of voting centres to sign Form 14 presents a challenge. The Pakatan Harapan and Warisan parties are concerned about the delay in Form 14 signing on the evening of May 9, which is the 14th general election night. As is common knowledge, Form 14 is the Voting Statement Form after the Counting of Votes, and it will be signed by the Head of the Polling Station (KTM). There are also difficulties associated with preventing voter registration. This is due to complaints about unreasonable restrictions, such as restricting voter registration forms to Assistant Registrars in an effort to increase voter turnout.

### **Recommendations and Summary**

The involvement of 18-year-old voters is important in helping the country to involve all levels of society in electing the government. The increase in the percentage of voters also increases, which will help in boosting the percentage of the country's vote. However, this matter is beyond the expectations of the government because of the high number of new voters but not those who vote. There are several proposals to further encourage the participation of 18-year-old voters and automatic voter registration. Among the suggestions is, through learning at school. This is said because, through history subjects at school it can help in increasing the interest of 18-year-old voters to get involved in political activities (Esa, Ationg, Ibrahim, Othman, Abang Muis, Zulhaimi & Muda, 2021d). Teachers should play an important role in conducting learning by engaging students during lessons. Therefore, if the subject is taught with a sense of humour, students may develop an interest in participating in future political activities.

Similarly, the role and influence of parents should play a significant role in encouraging children to participate in the implementation of the government. It is important for parents to explain to their children that their participation can aid the nation in making the best decision. Therefore, all parties must work together to ensure the successful implementation of this government. In addition, through UMNO's proposal to provide youth with fair and effective political education will emphasise learning about the political system, state government, and the federal constitution, among other topics. Therefore, the participation of 18-year-olds in the programme is able to train them from the start and will encourage them to vote.

One of the most important democratic practices in Malaysia is elections, in which citizens choose which party will form the Federal Government and govern the country (Ibrahim & Abdul Azzis. 2022b). In the context of the fourteenth general election, the voters have made their choice, bringing with it their reasoning for doing so. While a political campaign is an organized effort to influence the decision-making process of a specific group. In democracies, political campaigns typically refer to election campaigns where representatives are elected or referendums decided. The most prominent political campaigns in contemporary politics focus on general elections and candidates for the head of state or head of government, typically the President or Prime Minister. Political campaigns provide the chance to develop and hone a vast array of skills in a highly dynamic and adaptable setting.

Oftentimes, campaigning can directly or indirectly lead to future government employment, and campaigning is not for everyone. There is typically limited formal direction, structured feedback, administrative support, and free time. Therefore, political parties participating in elections must be diligent in conducting face-to-face campaigns to demonstrate to the public that their party is capable of leading a country in the future, and the public will be more confident in choosing which political party is qualified to lead them and the nation with complete accountability. The consequence of this is that the young generation must equip themselves with knowledge of voters and the democratic system, maximize the available opportunities, and be prepared to participate in the Malaysian election process. Today, they have the right to make decisions and shape the future of the country, as well as the responsibility to listen to and follow the older generation's instructions. In this regard, it has both positive and negative effects.

However, the time has come for 18-year-olds to assume this responsibility in order to achieve national objectives, and the government desires to produce and cultivate highly authoritative and accountable youth. The sooner young people are given the opportunity to participate in the democratic process, the sooner they will be prepared to assume the responsibilities of being effective leaders in the future. If you look and observe young people on a daily basis, you will notice that they are no longer a group that merely wishes to sit and listen attentively. Young people are now actively engaged and represent a leadership-oriented group especially those surrounds with valuable experience via conducive learning environment while studying at universities (Othman, Esa, Ationg, Ibrahim, Lukin & Abdul Hamid, 2021h). It is hoped that the young generation or youth will now exercise their rights with maturity, discernment, and efficiency. Voting is a personal decision, and there is no incorrect vote, but all young Malaysians should have the right to vote.

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