

NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

NSC

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Malaysia is a multi-racial country adopting a system of government based on parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy. The nation is built on integration of its people, territorial integrity, a stable government, sovereignty and international recognition.
- 1.2 The Government is responsible for ensuring that sovereignty and national security are continuously safeguarded and maintained. In this context Malaysia's national security refers to a state of being free from any threat, whether internally or externally, to its core values. Threats to national security since 1957 such as the Communist Party of Malaya insurgency, incursion by the terrorist army of the Sulu Sultanate into Sabah in 2013, efforts to overthrow the Government through non-democratic process, militancy and terrorism as well as global threats in various forms have necessitated the formulation of a comprehensive National Security Policy (NSP).
- 1.3 The NSP is introduced as the principal policy in confronting the various security threats which have become increasingly dynamic and complex. Through the NSP, the implementation of the primary strategies will ensure that National Core Values are safeguarded thereby keeping Malaysia safe from all forms of threat, not only physical but also non-physical, that which may influence and corrupt people's minds. This includes interference by foreign powers in the administration and internal affairs of the nation.
- 1.4 In this sense, the formulation of the NSP as the primary guide and reference for federal and state ministries and agencies is proof that the Government is persistently committed in ensuring that national security is assured and maintained. Consequently, the support and cooperation of the people is detrimental in guaranteeing the survival of Malaysia as an independent, safe and sovereign nation based on the principles of parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy. Not only is the NSP intended for the society in-being but more importantly, for the well-being and peace of generations to come.

2. NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 The NSP is the overarching policy or basis for comprehensive national security aimed at maintaining, safeguarding and defending the National Core Values which will ensure the survival of Malaysia as an independent, peaceful, safe and sovereign nation.
- 2.2 The NSP was formulated under the National Security Council Act 2016 [Act 776] which confers power to the National Security Council in formulating policies and strategies for national security. This responsibility includes the monitoring of the implementation of such policies and strategies.

3. MALAYSIA IN THE GEOSTRATEGIC CONTEXT

3.1 Malaysia has a strategic position in the South-East Asian Geo-political environment. Geographically, it is also located along important Sea Lines of Communication, namely, the Straits of Melaka and the South China Sea which have frequently attracted the attention of the major powers. Malaysia's location influences its bilateral and multi-lateral relations with other countries, both regional and international, in terms of important political, socio-economic, security, defence, cultural interests amongst others. In addition, Malaysia's security is influenced to a larger degree by regional and international geopolitics in the following premise:

Regional

- 3.1.1 ASEAN is the primary focus in Malaysia's foreign policy. As one of the founder members of ASEAN, Malaysia fully supports and upholds the basic principles contained in the ASEAN Charter such as the opposition in the use of force, non-intervention in the affairs of member countries as well as the promotion of peaceful conflict resolution as the key to ensuring peace, stability and prosperity in the region. This commitment is aimed at maintaining national strategic interests.
- 3.1.2 Malaysia also fosters regional strategic cooperation through active participation in regional security and defence organisations such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting (ADMM) and Five-Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) to safeguard national interests.

International

- 3.1.3 Countries such as the United States of America, China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, Japan, India, Australia and the European Union (EU) have strategic interests in Malaysia and the region. These countries are important because they have the power to shape the global political and economic environment militarily as well as the economic and technological edge to broaden their political influence and pursue their respective interests.
- 3.1.4 Malaysia's commitment to international organisations such as the United Nations (UN), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Non Aligned Movement (NAM), Commonwealth, G-15 and G-77 in handling global strategic issues has resulted in it being regarded as a friendly nation to be trusted and respected at the international level. Through active participation in the international organizations, Malaysia's policies and interests on numerous security issues have been highlighted and maintained. Over and above that, its participation in Peacekeeping Operations and post conflict rehabilitation in various countries affected by war, internal conflict and natural disasters have also acknowledged Malaysia's role and empathy as a global player. The selection of Malaysia as one of the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, and as chair of associations such as the OIC, NAM and G-77, among others, manifests Malaysia's role at the global level by the international community.

4. NATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Malaysia has undergone a challenging evolution in maintaining its sovereignty, national security and public order. The current security landscape has become increasingly complex with threats from both State and Non-State actors which will have high impact on the security and sovereignty of the nation. Past experiences faced by the nation in relation to security includes colonisation by foreign powers, the Communist insurgency, the Indonesian Confrontation, secessionist movements, the 13 May 1969 ethnic conflict, extremism (ethnic, ideological, religious and political), economic crises, natural disasters and territorial infringements. Measures to ensure national security and the survival of Malaysia as a sovereign state needs to take cognizance of both internal threats and the geopolitical climate at regional and international levels as follows:

4.1.1 Fragility of National Unity

Issues that touch on communal sensitivities, ethnicity, religion, beliefs and culture which are widely and freely disseminated in the social media continue to be a source of communal friction in Malaysia. These issues continue to hinder the country's aspiration in creating a united and progressive society.

4.1.2 Challenges Facing the Nation's Democratic System

There are efforts and schemes to bring down the Government through nondemocratic process which violates the laws of the country. Such actions will weaken our national institutions which will threaten public order and the security of the nation.

4.1.3 Illegal Immigrants and 'Refugees'¹

The peace, prosperity and rapid economic growth enjoyed by the country has attracted the influx of illegal immigrants and 'refugees' to our shores. The presence of illegal immigrants and 'refugees' not only creates negative impact on the social, economic, criminal, political domains and diplomatic relations, but also has the potential to threaten the peace and security of the nation.

4.1.4 **Disputes over Territorial Claims**

Malaysia has been facing the issue of overlapping territorial claims and disputes over land, maritime and air territories with its neighbours as well as major powers. These disputes have the potential to adversely impact bilateral relations between Malaysia and its neighbours. At the regional level, overlapping territorial claims can spark the risk of armed conflict leading to regional collateral ramifications and potentially invite the intervention of interested third parties if not handled appropriately.

4.1.5 Extremism and Terrorism

The issue of international terrorism is an ongoing global threat that has a direct impact on the security of Malaysia. Extremist and terrorist elements that have infiltrated the country as well as the involvement of Malaysian

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