

MEDIA STATEMENT

IDEAS calls for a sustainable and holistic approach to political financing reform

Kuala Lumpur, 13 October 2021 - The Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) released two new publications on the topic of political financing in Malaysia. The two Brief IDEAS are 'Brief IDEAS No. 33 - Political financing in Malaysia: Recent developments and plugging potential gaps' by Aira Azhari and Tricia Yeoh, and 'Brief IDEAS No. 34 - Political financing in Malaysia: Aligning reforms with voter expectations' by Aira Azhari. The two papers are the culmination of a whole year of IDEAS' work to ensure a transparent, accountable and institutionalised political financing ecosystem in Malaysia.

“Over the past year, IDEAS has contributed to the debate surrounding political financing through our workshops with youth wings of political parties, commissioning a survey to understand what voters’ expect from their elected representatives, producing two educational videos on political financing with our partner The Fourth and more recently, the effort to form an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on political financing. The findings that we have gathered thus far has informed the two Brief IDEAS released today.

In Brief IDEAS No. 33, we delve into some of the important factors that must be considered when pushing for legislation on political financing, such as businesses owned by political parties, the large gaps between the wealth owned by some political parties over others, established informal practices in Malaysian politics and internal party elections.

In Brief IDEAS No. 34, we present the findings from the workshops we held in June - July 2021 and the survey we commissioned in May 2021, with data collected between 28 May - 8 June 2021. The findings show that apart from the Political Financing Act, Malaysia needs to reform the way Constituency Development Funds (CDFs) are managed, state welfare institutions need to be strengthened, and the Parliamentary Services Act and local council elections must be reintroduced,” comments Aira Azhari, Manager of the Democracy and Governance Unit and paper author.

“Although political financing reform was not in the MoU that was signed recently between the federal government and the opposition, I am still hopeful because more and more politicians are realising the importance of this cause. Reforming political financing is absolutely fundamental to restore trust in our democracy and to combat corruption. I urge our ADUNs and MPs to seriously consider our recommendations in the two papers we released today and IDEAS remains ready to support institutional reforms, particularly on political financing.

We look forward to the Political Financing Bill being tabled in the next parliamentary sitting, as we strongly believe that reforming political financing in Malaysia will lead to a more stable political system, which will benefit voters and parties alike. Public funding particularly has been proven to stabilise and institutionalise political parties in other regions, and it is time that Malaysia seriously thinks about implementing public funding as well,” comments Tricia Yeoh, IDEAS CEO.

The two Brief IDEAS can be downloaded here:

- Political financing in Malaysia: Recent developments and plugging potential gaps - <https://bit.ly/BriefIDEAS33>
- Political financing in Malaysia: Aligning reforms with voters’ expectations - <https://bit.ly/BriefIDEAS34>

The survey report can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3ICGbQy>

The two videos can be viewed here:

- This is how money rules Malaysian politics - <http://bit.ly/polfin1>
- This is how we fix Malaysian politics - <http://bit.ly/polfin2>

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About IDEAS

The Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) is a nonprofit research institute, dedicated to promoting solutions to public policy challenges, focussing on three overarching missions – advancing a competitive economy, ensuring trust in institutions and promoting an inclusive Malaysia. IDEAS is Malaysia’s first independent think tank, free of personal interests and partisan influences. For more information, visit www.ideas.org.my.

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KENYATAAN MEDIA

IDEAS: Reformasi pendanaan politik perlu pendekatan mapan dan holistik

Kuala Lumpur, 13 Oktober 2021 - Institut Demokrasi dan Hal Ehwal Ekonomi (IDEAS) hari ini menerbitkan dua kertas dasar Brief IDEAS tentang pendanaan politik di Malaysia. Brief IDEAS yang pertama bertajuk 'Brief IDEAS No. 33 - Political financing in Malaysia: Recent developments and plugging potential gaps' oleh Aira Azhari dan Tricia Yeoh, dan yang kedua 'Brief IDEAS No. 34 - Political financing in Malaysia: Aligning reforms with voter expectations' oleh Aira Azhari. Penerbitan kedua-dua kertas ini merupakan kemuncak kepada usaha IDEAS selama setahun untuk memastikan ekosistem pendanaan politik yang telus, bertanggungjawab dan diinstitusi.

“Dalam setahun ini, IDEAS telah menyumbang kepada wacana tentang pendanaan politik melalui siri bengkel bersama sayap-sayap pemuda parti, sebuah tinjauan untuk memahami apa yang pengundi harapkan daripada wakil rakyat mereka, menerbitkan dua video yang mendidik masyarakat tentang pendanaan politik bersama rakan kami The Fourth dan yang terkini, usaha untuk membentuk sebuah Kumpulan Rentas Parti Parlimen Malaysia (APPG) dalam topik pendanaan politik. Kedua-dua kertas yang diterbitkan pada hari ini menampilkan dapatan daripada semua kajian yang kami jalankan setakat ini.

Brief IDEAS No. 33 menelusuri beberapa faktor penting yang perlu diteliti apabila membicarakan tentang undang-undang pendanaan politik. Antaranya ialah, perniagaan milik parti politik, jurang kekayaan di antara satu parti politik dengan yang lain, budaya politik Malaysia yang tidak formal dan pemilihan parti.

Brief IDEAS No. 34 menampilkan dapatan daripada siri bengkel yang telah diadakan di antara Jun - Julai 2021 dan tinjauan yang telah kami komisenkan pada Mei 2021 dan dijalankan di antara 28 Mei hingga 8 Jun 2021. Dapatan daripada kedua-dua aktiviti ini menunjukkan bahawa, selain daripada Akta Pendanaan Politik, Malaysia juga perlu menambahbaik pengurusan Dana Pembangunan Kawasan (CDFs), mengukuhkan agensi kebajikan kerajaan dan memperkenalkan semula Akta Perkhidmatan Parlimen serta pilihanraya kerajaan tempatan,” komen Aira Azhari, Pengurus Unit Demokrasi dan Tadbir Urus merangkap pengarang kedua-dua kertas dasar.

“Walaupun pendanaan politik bukan salah satu daripada perkara yang terkandung dalam MoU yang ditandatangani oleh kerajaan persekutuan dan pembangkang baru-baru ini, saya menaruh harapan kerana semakin ramai ahli politik yang menyedari kepentingan hal ini. Reformasi sistem pendanaan politik amat penting untuk mengembalikan kepercayaan kepada demokrasi kita dan untuk melawan rasuah. Saya menggesa semua ADUN dan MP mempertimbangkan cadangan yang kami kemukakan di dalam kertas dasar yang diterbitkan hari ini. IDEAS sentiasa bersedia menyokong reformasi institusi, terutamanya yang melibatkan pendanaan politik.

IDEAS menanti pembentangan Rang Undang-Undang Pendanaan Politik di sesi parlimen seterusnya. Kami percaya bahawa reformasi pendanaan politik akan menjurus kepada sistem politik lebih stabil yang akan memberi manfaat kepada pengundi dan parti-parti politik. Secara khususnya, pendanaan awam telah terbukti berkesan dalam menstabil dan menginstitusi parti politik di negara lain. Justeru itu, sudah sampai masanya Malaysia juga mempertimbangkan pelaksanaan pendanaan awam terhadap parti politik,” komen Tricia Yeoh, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif IDEAS.

Kertas dasar Brief IDEAS boleh dimuat turun di sini:

- Political financing in Malaysia: Recent developments and plugging potential gaps (ENG) - <https://bit.ly/BriefIDEAS33>
- Political financing in Malaysia: Aligning reforms with voters' expectations (ENG) - <https://bit.ly/BriefIDEAS34>

Laporan tinjauan boleh dimuat turun di sini: <https://bit.ly/3lCGbQy>

Kedua-dua video boleh ditonton di sini:

- Percaturan wang ringgit dalam politik Malaysia - <http://bit.ly/polfin1>
- Cara memperbaiki sistem politik Malaysia - <http://bit.ly/polfin2>

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Tentang IDEAS

Institut Demokrasi dan Hal Ehwah Ekonomi (IDEAS) merupakan sebuah institute penyelidikan bukan berasaskan keuntungan, mengkhususkan kepada mempromosikan penyelesaian terhadap cabaran dasar awam, menumpukan kepada tiga misi menyeluruh - memajukan sebuah ekonomi yang kompetitif, memastikan keyakinan dalam institusi, dan mempromosikan sebuah negara Malaysia yang merangkumi semua. IDEAS merupakan badan pemikir bebas pertama Malaysia, tanpa kepentingan peribadi serta pengaruh berpihak. Untuk maklumat lanjut, lawati www.ideas.org.my.

Untuk pertanyaan, sila hubungi:

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