

Country: Malaysia

Theme: Voter Education for Informed and Ethical Voting

Title of The Best Practice / Case Study: Voter Education for Informed and Ethical Voting: UNREGISTERED QUALIFIED ELECTORS, ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND VOTER TURNOUT

Area of Coverage: unregistered qualified electors, voters, election officer

Period of implementation: ONGOING

Background: ELECTION COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (ECM) The Election Commission Malaysia (ECM) was established on 4 September 1957 under the Article 114 of the Constitution of Malaysia, is a body that has been entrusted to conduct elections in Malaysia. Members of the Commission are appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) Under Article 114 of the independent Federation of Malaya after consultation with the Conference of Rulers. The Commission comprised of one Chairman, one Deputy Chairman and five members and will serve until the age of 66. The main functions of ECM are registration of electors, conduct of elections and managing the delineation/ delimitation of constituencies.

Brief Description of Best Practice: 1. UNREGISTERED QUALIFIED ELECTORS Registration and voting is not compulsory in Malaysia. The number of qualified electors in Malaysia as at 31 July 2016 is 17.9 millions and out of the figure, 13.6 millions have turned out and registered. Therefore, statistics show that there are about 4.4 million people or 24.3% of voting age population, who are qualified but not yet registered as an elector. 2. ELECTION CAMPAIGN Under the Elections Act 1958, ECM can establish Election Campaign Enforcement Team lead by an enforcement officer, whom appointed by the King. The team comprised of one representative from each of the contesting party. Their responsibility also is to monitor the campaign activity including the campaign materials as well as posting and pasting the materials been done ethically. This includes the usage of sensitive words and slogans according to the rules and regulations stipulated under the law. 3. VOTER TURNOUT Voter turnout is one measure of citizen participation in politics. It is usually expressed as the percentage of voters who cast a vote (i.e., "turnout" •) at an election. This total number of voters includes those who cast blank or invalid votes, as they still participate.

Challenges : The challenges faced by us in managing people have never been easy. The skill of managing human being still become as a big challenge in every aspect of management exists in the world today. Among the biggest challenges coming from those who are smart and intelligent people especially from the Y-Generation. In addition to that, the challenges of managing a world without borders such as social media which are rapidly developing and growing used by all age and gender groups. Another huge challenge to the ECM is to ensure the smooth, clean and fair election to all parties, independent candidates and its alliances.

Outcome: The ECM hopes to see the increasing number of electors to be registered especially among the young people. In order to achieve the objective, voter education programs will continue to be carried out and at the same time to convince the people on the fair and equitable of election process. In realizing the fact that the ECM is facing various allegations and criticism, it holds huge responsibility to enhance the public confidence in seeing ECM as a body which administer and conduct the electoral process to shape and help the growth of democracy in this country.