

After the tsunami: challenges of a changing literary landscape

ABSTRAK

On the 9th of May 2018, at the 14th Malaysian General Election (MGE 14), a political tsunami (Hemananthani Sivanandam 2018) occurred when the opposition scored a historic win over Barisan Nasional after 61 years in power (BBC News 2018). The admirable bloodless change of power which many allude to as "people's power" with grand plans for a "Malaysia Baru" under the aegis of a previous prime minister, also known as the father of modern Malaysia (Reuters 2018) nanogenarian, Tun Mahathir Mohamad overcame many obstacles amongst them allegations of illegal tampering of electoral votes and corruption by those in power (Hemananthani Sivanandam 2018). Pakatan Harapan or the Alliance of Hope, the new coalition ruling Malaysia has vowed to overturn and change the core of governance with the introduction of National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC) (The Sun Daily 2018) and much more in all areas of the economic, social and political landscape. Made-up of Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia (Sabah & Sarawak); the 32.7 million people of diverse nationality and ethnic with 67.4% Malays, 24.6% Chinese, 7.3 % Indians and about 0.7 % ethnic other, (Department of Statistics Malaysia Official Portal 2018) struggle to forge a national identity after independence in 1957. At the formation of Malaysia in 1963, Barisan Nasional , a coalition headed by United Malays National Organization or UMNO has since ruled until the historical tsunami on the 9th of May 2018. The Barisan Nasional implemented a consolidation of the arts under one language Bahasa Malaysia (How 2015) that has become a much-researched topic not to mention forging a "new" identity (Lim 2008). Aside from the diverse ethnicity, cultures and religion, the strive to compete in the technology-driven economy of the future at the dawn of millennial and the impact of globalization which has contributed 11.2% to the 2% registered as international migrants of the overall population are significant catalyst for social change in any nation, Malaysia notwithstanding.