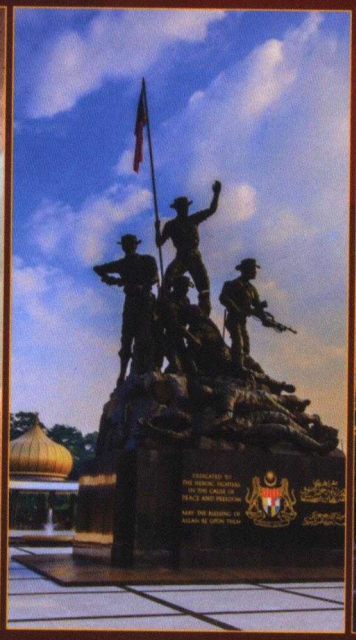
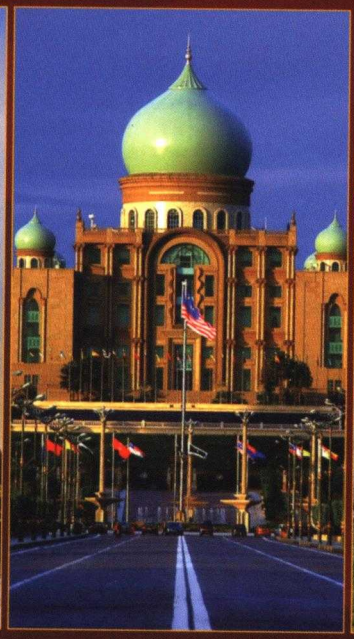
A RESEARCH COLLABORATION BETWEEN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL,
PRIME MINSTER'S OFFICE OF MALAYSIA (NSC,PMO) & UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM)


A NATION UNITED

SHARED VISION *for* NATIONAL SECURITY

EDITORS
Yarina Ahmad
Raja Nushirwan Zainal Abidin

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FOREWORD III

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Vice Chancellor
Universiti Teknologi MARA



Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and good day.

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and Merciful. All praise be to Allah SWT for the success of the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) research team in producing these research findings through the National Security Index (NSI) survey. The index has nine core pillars: (1) sovereignty and territorial integrity, (2) socio-political stability, (3) national unity, (4) good governance, (5) economic integrity, (6) social justice, (7) sustainable development, (8) people's security, and (9) international recognition. The success of this translational research represents a significant contribution by UiTM to the nation as a whole.

In this regard, as Vice Chancellor of UiTM, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the National Security Council (NSC), Prime Minister's Department (JPM), which fully funded this consultation project with RM499,999.88. NSC and UiTM's strategic collaboration successfully completed the NSI study in nine months (March 1–November 30, 2022). A large-scale national-level study would not have been possible without a strong research collaboration between NSC and UiTM. The collaboration of these two agencies—one governmental and the other academic—has resulted in extraordinary research findings that will benefit both the nation and society.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to the top leadership of NSC, namely YM Raja Dato' Nushirwan Zainal Abidin (Director General of National Security), YBhg. Datuk Haji Rodzi Md Saad (former Director General of National Security), and Mrs. Nur Azimah Mahmood (Assistant Director, Corporate and Policy Division of NSC). In addition, my heartfelt gratitude goes to YBhg. Prof. Dr. Yarina Ahmad along with 81 researchers and eight research assistants, in collaboration with 58 strategic research officers from NSC across various states, who successfully developed this NSI. This research breakthrough represents a significant contribution to the ongoing strengthening of national security. Your success equals UiTM's success, which represents UiTM's greatest contribution to the nation.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Raja Nushirwan Zainal Abidin & Yarina Ahmad

INTRODUCTION

National security serves as the bedrock of a nation's stability, prosperity, and harmony. It represents a condition where the state is safeguarded from both internal and external threats, ensuring that its citizens can live in peace while contributing to the country's socio-economic progress (Jalal, 2015). In Malaysia, national security is not just a matter of defence but a holistic and continuous effort to uphold sovereignty, ensuring that governance remains firmly rooted in the principles of Parliamentary Democracy and Constitutional Monarchy. This unwavering commitment has led to the integration of security considerations into national policies, most notably in the Malaysia Plans and various strategic government initiatives.

Malaysia's journey toward securing its sovereignty and stability began long before independence. The country has recognised that security and economic progress are interdependent, and since the 1960s, this recognition has been a fundamental component of national development planning. Successive government policies have emphasised this connection, acknowledging that without a secure and stable environment, economic growth cannot be sustained.

NATIONAL SECURITY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

National security plays a crucial role in Malaysia's economic development, as reflected in its long-term strategic planning. The First Malaysia Plan (1966-1970) was a groundbreaking effort that integrated security concerns into economic strategies. During this period, Malaysia faced significant challenges, including income disparity, reliance on primary exports, rapid population growth, and a shortage of skilled labour. In response, economic policies were crafted to not only drive growth but also create a balanced, inclusive economy that fostered national unity and social stability.

"A Nation United: Shared Visions for National Security" is an academic reference for all levels of society on the national security agenda led by the National Security Council (NSC), in accordance with the implementation of the National Security Policy (DKN) 2021-2025. This book, based on research findings, compiles the results of a 2022 study conducted by the NSC in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). It presents an empirically supported national security narrative that is examined from the perspectives of three societal groups: (1) law enforcement and implementation agencies involved in national security; (2) community leaders; and (3) Malaysians.The extensive and in-depth examination of research findings, supported by a strong research methodology, has resulted in a comprehensive national security narrative for the general Malaysian readership. Furthermore, this book serves as a scholarly resource for ministries and agencies looking to better understand and engage with the national security agenda, recognize shared roles and responsibilities, and address issues and challenges that arise during the process.

Prof. Dr. Yarina Ahmad is a professor of policy and social studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and a lifetime member of the Malaysian Society for Higher Education Policy & Research Development. She has led 16 out of 46 research projects worth RM5.8 million and has received multiple prestigious awards, including the National Book Award (Best Editing), Best Researcher (Social Sciences and Humanities) at the Academic University Award 2020, and the UiTM Top Talent Award 2022. She is also a recipient of the UiTM Excellent Service Award (2015, 2016, 2017, and 2023) and the Monash Postgraduate Publication Award (2013). Her work includes Malaysia's first COVID-19 pandemic research on the impact of cultivating new norms, as well as contributions to the National Security Index, National Border Security Index, National Integrity Index, and the National Action Plan to Address Drug and Substance Threats. Between 2014 and 2025, she has supervised and graduated 15 PhD and 5 Master's students, making significant contributions to academic scholarship and national policy development.

YM Raja Dato' Nushirwan Zainal Abidin holds a Bachelor with Honours in Economics from Aberystwyth University, Wales. He began his career as an Administrative and Diplomatic Officer in 1995 at the Regional Economic and Commodity Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). He previously served as Deputy Secretary-General (Bilateral Affairs) at MOFA and as Malaysia's Ambassador to China. He remained with MOFA until May 2023 before being appointed as Director-General for National Security at the National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department. He was awarded the Darjah Sri Sultan Ahmad Shah Pahang (DSAP) by DYMM Sultan Pahang, Darjah Dato' Paduka Mahkota Perak (DPMP) by the DYMM Sultan Perak and an Honorary Professorship from Tianjin University in February 2023.

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