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# MALAYSIANS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS 10 PROMISES IN 100 DAYS AND PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE TOWARDS THE NEW GOVERNMENT

# (PAKATAN HARAPAN)

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**ABSTRACT**

*After the 14th General Election (GE14), Pakatan Harapan (PH) won the election on 9th of May 2018. This political party had made their manifesto and announced it on 8th of March 2018. This research is focusing on their efforts to implement their manifesto which is (10 promises in 100 days). The researcher decided to take ten pledges that Pakatan Harapan must carry through during their first 100 days of governance. However, only six promises that the researcher decided to choose for the research because not all the promises had been fulfilled and only six that are fulfilled and partially fulfilled. By using Reasoned Action Theory that can be related to public acceptance towards the new government (PH). The questionnaires was distributed to all Malaysian from various states and the questionnaires were disseminated via online survey using Google Doc. Questionnaires were distributed to 200 respondents in various states aged from 20 to 60 years and above. The raw data was analysed by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). Based on the result by using Multiple Linear Regression method, there are 4 factors which are the most significant that are 1MDB (β=0.491) marks the strongest relationship towards dependent variables and then followed by GST (β=0.276), Level up the Minimum Wage (β=0.184) and PTPTN (β=-0.105). However, there are 2 factors which are not significant that are Fuel Subsidies β=0.276) and EPF of Housewives (β=-0.005). In order to promote the trust and public acceptance towards the new government, Pakatan Harapan need to fulfil the entire manifesto that they have promised to execute.*

**Keywords:** Pu*blic Acceptance, 10 promises in 100 days*

## INTRODUCTION

Malaysian country had been ruled by National Coalition government or known as Barisan Nasional (BN) for almost 61 years. Now Malaysians finally governed by a new government which is Pakatan Harapan (PH)  This brought huge change due to  massive 'manifesto' and 'speech' by our new government. Everyone paid attention and interest to the manifesto and promises before voting day and people is being optimistic on the future of Malaysia (Dennis, 2018). As we know that Pakatan Harapan (Alliance for Hope) (PH) won the election with the coalition on $9^{th}$ May 2018 on the $14^{th}$ general election. PH is a Political coalition in Malaysia and was established in 2015.

PH take over Barisan Nasional (BN) as Malaysia's new government. They (PH) did several promises towards Malaysians by capturing their trusts during the campaign period in ensuring their aims and triumph to win the $14^{th}$ General Election.  As for that matter, PH needs to fulfill their 10 promises in 100 days as stated in the 5-pillar manifesto (Tara Thiagarajan, 2018). PH's 10 promises in 100 days are the pledge that outlines in Buku Harapan (Book of Hope) It was launched at the Ideal convention Centre (IDCC) in Shah Alam. This Book of Hopes is seeking to win Malaysian voters to reform the country in the next five years if Pakatan Harapan succeeds in taking over from Barisan Nasional (BN) as the federal government in GE 14th (Ruxyn, 2018).

According to 10 promises in 100 days: Pakatan Harapan's countdown timer starts now (2018)  Book of Hope is full with Pakatan Harapan's manifesto, but they had promised 10 things that they want to achieve within the first 100 days in government. The first promises that had been done are the abolishment of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Tun Dr. Mahathir said that PH's pledge to eliminate the six percent GST after the election results had been revealed; he said that country would change to the sales and service tax. (SST) Next promises are by investigating scandal-plagued institutions. This is about the investment firm 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), Majlis Amanah Rakyat and Federal; Land Development Authority. Besides that, they will introduce employees Provident Fund (EPF) scheme for housewives.  This is to help the housewives in gaining access to quality social security and enhance income security. EPF accounts with a minimum of RM5 started on Aug 15, the target group consisted of housewives, head of households (married men), single mothers and widows listed in the e-Kasih database (Samantha, 2018). Then, Re-introduce fuel subsidies to a targeted group, the manifesto had identified those with motorcycles with engines below 125cc and cars under 1,300cc are eligible for subsidies. Another manifesto is standardising an increase on the minimum wage. Other promises are postponing repayment to the National Higher Education Fund Corporation for those earning below RM4, 000.  In fact, Pakatan Harapan also wants to review the awarding of mega projects to foreign countries. Thus, by setting up a task force to study how to return autonomy promise to Sabah and Sarawak, as set out in the Malaysia Agreement 1963 is one of the 10 promises. Another two promises are abolishing the FELDA settler's debts and introduce national healthcare assistance initiative which is a household in the B40 class will be given RM500 to get the treatment from private clinics.

The research study is focused on all Malaysians aged between 20 years and above from all ethnics and various states. The researcher only managed to get 200 respondents to fulfill the minimum requirement for this thesis. This research will give us the overview of public acceptance towards the new government (PH). The factors of the 10 promises in 100 days, which is GST, fuel subsidies,1MDB issues, EPF of the housewives, PTPTN and level up the minimum wage. Furthermore, the research can be used by the Ministry such as Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Finance. These ministries are the best main point for them in not only as an order to take responsibilities but also acts as a benchmark or outcome results on Pakatan Harapan promises. Thus, Malaysia can improve their knowledge on the current government issues that may lead to a successful future development for the country. The findings and data analysis are important for the government institution to play their roles in enhancing their promises.


## PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Pakatan Harapan's government left a mark on the world when it turned into the administration of the day in the wake of winning the fourteenth General Election (GE14) on May 9th, finishing the Barisan Nasional's (BN) rule of over six decades. Pakatan Harapan won the election with 45.56% votes. There are several problems that arised in this topic. The reason why this thesis was made because on the keep running up to GE14, Pakatan Harapan is made up of numerous coalition of political parties which are PKR, DAP, BERSATU, and AMANAH, in their manifesto Book of Hope. According to Robin Augustin (2018), Malaysians had voiced their dismay with PH through social media polls in their first 100 days in power. 200, 000 people participated in this polls which was conducted by Sinar Harian, The Malaysian Insight and five Facebook pages (Kelab Maya Mahathir, Suara Rakyat, Otai Bersih, The Patriots, and Tentera Troll Kebangsaan Malaysia). The result shown 26,000 (78%) from them was found saying that they felt PH did not fulfilled their 10 promises in 100 days while The Malaysian Insight, about 53,00 people (67%) were unhappy. Many social media users said that they are despaired with PH's failure to fulfill their manifesto such as the issue of repayment of student loans and minimum wage. Other than that, according to Merdeka Center (2018), some of Malaysians are satisfied with the performance of Pakatan Harapan in fulfilling the election promises, but unfortunately, more of Malaysians are unsatisfied when Pakatan Harapan still did not fulfill their 10 promises in 100days from the start of the launching of their manifesto until now, it has already exceeded the days from the commence date. (Sufian Abu Bakar, 2018).


## 10 PROMISES IN 100 DAYS

- **1MDB issues**

In 2015, Malaysia's previous Prime Minister Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak was accused of transferring 1MDB money to his personal bank account. A total of RM2.67 billion

from 1MDB had been transferred to his personal account. This political scandal is occurring in Malaysia right now. This caused a huge rage among the Malaysian asking Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak to resign, and Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad defeated Najib to return the position after the triumph of PH on the 14th general election (1MDB scandal, 2018).

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

According to Nor Hafizah Abd Mansor and Azleen Ilias (2013), the GST is becoming the hot discussed topic in Malaysia after it was implemented by our previous Prime Minister Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) announced the budget 2010 on the implementation of GST and indirectly created various reactions to the Malaysian. The government planned to implement the GST because they want to reduce the deficit budget on Malaysia that keeps ongoing. The GST was announced resulting several contradicting opinions and grievances from various citizen, academicians, politicians and businesses from all the states. Furthermore, when GST was implemented, most organisations in Malaysia were affected especially, manufacturing, companies, service sector, education, health, transportation, petroleum and others. Apart from that, our internet services, charities, association also were included in GST.  In fact, the Government had collected RM 41 billion in GST revenue in 2016,   compared to the old sales and services tax (SST) which brought the government  a revenue of RM 18 billion per annum, this means GST took in the extra RM 23 billion from Malaysians that would otherwise be spend by the people directly for goods and services.  Thus, when everyone spends less, inflation arises, businesses suffer, and at some point some companies would retrench staffs, further aggravating the overall well-being of the Malaysian economy. (Liew Ching Tong, 2017).

## PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE TOWARDS THE NEW GOVERNMENT (PH)

Pakatan Harapan won the 14th general election after defeating Barisan Nasional. This new government had made their manifestos which were 10 promises in 100 days. Public acceptance towards the new government (Pakatan Harapan) is the most important for government to see their triumph factor on the recent general election.  This research shown that 10 promises in 100 days is one of the pivotal factors to the public acceptance on the new government (Pakatan Harapan).

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research examined the study of factors on 10 promises in 100 days and public acceptance towards the new government (Pakatan Harapan). However, only six promises were selected because it was fulfilled and partially fulfilled. The purposive sampling researcher use the respondent are all Malaysians aged from 20 years and above from all ethnics and various states. However, the researcher only managed to get 200 respondents to fulfill the minimum requirement for this thesis. The best sample sizes

are selected by using Purposive Sampling. Descriptive quantitative research study was conducted through survey using Google Docs. The hypothesis testing gained by using two different methods that had indicated different result which are Pearson Correlation and Multiple Linear Regression.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### a) Profile of the Malaysian in various states and ethnic

The profile of the sample is discussed in terms of eight characteristics: gender, ethnic, age group, marital status, occupation, income, place of the origin and states.

**Table 4.1: Demographic Profile Analysis**

| ITEM | FREQUENCY | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|---|
| **GENDER** | | |
| ● MALE | 98 | 49 |
| ● FEMALE | 102 | 51 |
| **ETHNICITY** | | |
| ● MALAY | 176 | 88 |
| ● CHINESE | 8 | 4 |
| ● INDIAN | 10 | 5 |
| ● OTHERS | 6 | 3 |
| **AGE GROUP** | | |
| ● 20 - 29 | 105 | 52.5 |
| ● 30 - 39 | 53 | 26.5 |
| ● 40 - 49 | 35 | 17.5 |
| ● 50 - 59 | 7 | 3.5 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | |
| ● SINGLE | 114 | 57 |
| ● MAIED | 86 | 43 |
| **OCCUPATION** | | |
| ● SELF-EMPLOYED/BUSINESS | 20 | 10 |
| ● GOVERNMENT | 51 | 25.5 |
| ● PRIVATE | 52 | 26 |
| ● RETIRED | 2 | 1 |
| ● STUDENT | 64 | 32 |
| ● UNEMPLOYED | 10 | 5 |
| ● OTHERS | 1 | 0.5 |
| **INCOME** | | |
| ● Less than RM2,000 | 96 | 48 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ● RM2,001 - RM4,000 | 31 | 15.5 |
| ● RM4,001 - RM6,000 | 33 | 16.5 |
| ● RM6,001 - RM8,000 | 18 | 9 |
| ● RM8,001 - and Above | 22 | 11 |
| **PLACE OF ORIGIN** | | |
| ● Urban | 122 | 61 |
| ● Sub-urban | 48 | 24 |
| ● Rural | 30 | 15 |
| **STATE** | | |
| ● Johor | 12 | 6 |
| ● Kedah | 13 | 6.5 |
| ● Kelantan | 9 | 4.5 |
| ● Melaka | 36 | 18 |
| ● N.Sembilan | 8 | 4 |
| ● Pahang | 10 | 5 |
| ● Perak | 16 | 8 |
| ● Perlis | 1 | 0.5 |
| ● Pulau Pinang | 9 | 4.5 |
| ● Sabah | 4 | 2 |
| ● Sarawak | 3 | 1.5 |
| ● Selangor | 52 | 26 |
| ● Terengganu | 7 | 3.5 |
| ● Wilayah Persekutuan | 20 | 10 |

Table 4.1 shows the summary of the frequency analysis of the respondents based on the questionnaires given. The target respondents of public acceptance towards the new government from various states.  Based on the female is the dominant population in the sample of study which comprises of 51%. Malay is the highest respondents which are 88%. The highest age group is from 20 - 29 years old and above which represented by 52.5%. The highest occupation of respondents which are students representing of 32%. The highest income of respondent is less than RM2, 000. The respondent from an urban place is the highest which is 61%. Lastly, Selangor is the highest state represented by respondents of 26%.

## Table 4.21 Coefficient for Multiple Regression Analysis

| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | B | Std. Error | Beta | | |
| | (Constant) | -.373 | .242 | | -1.539 | .126 |
| | GST | .326 | .067 | .276 | 4.864 | .000 |
| | Fuel Subsidies | .027 | .078 | .021 | .350 | .726 |
| | 1MDB Issues | .570 | .077 | .491 | 7.412 | .000 |
| | | -.007 | .075 | -.005 | -.092 | .927 |
| 1 | EPF for Housewives | | | | | |
| | PTPTN | -.130 | .058 | -.105 | -2.228 | .027 |
| | | .269 | .084 | .184 | 3.192 | .002 |
| | Level Up The Minimum Wage | | | | | |

a. Dependent Variable: Public Acceptance towards the New Government (PH)

The Coefficient table above shows Beta value for all the independent variables when they are regressed jointly against dependent variable. Based on the standardized coefficients reading, the Beta values for all independent show positive relationship towards the dependent variables.

- **H1: There is a significant relationship between 1MDB Issues and public acceptance towards the new government (Pakatan Harapan)**

Factor 3 is regarding 1MDB which indicated the Beta value of positive relationship ($\beta=0.491$) with a significant level (p=0.000). Thus the null hypothesis is accepted because the significant level is (p<0.05). The result supported by Brown (2018), which is stated, Kampar MP Dr. Ko Chung Sen believed the people are unhappy and suffered from the burdens because of the 1MDB issues.

- **H2: There is a significant relationship between GST and public acceptance towards the new government (Pakatan Harapan)**

Factor 1 is regarding GST which indicated the Beta value of positive relationship ($\beta$=0.276) with a significant level (p=0.000). Thus the null hypothesis is accepted because the significant level is (p<0.05). This result supported by Brown (2018), which stated that GST is the most reason why people want to change to the new government.  This brought huge argument and public discourse saying that GST is "fair" when one is taxed more when he spends more did not take into consideration that the rich would have a lot more income that they can save while the poor are usually stretched to the maximum of their income.  Hence, a higher proportion of the poor's income would go into GST than the rich.  As such, GST has a multiple regressive effects on income distribution, consumption sectors, hampering and disparaging on the development of human capitals and Malaysian economy at large.

**CONCLUSION**

However, based on the Multiple Linear Regression methods, there were two indicated results based on the coefficient analysis.  The first reading indicated the Beta Values that represent the significant relations directly from the independent towards dependent variables. The Beta ($\beta$) values shown, 1MDB ($\beta$=0.491) was the strongest relations towards the dependent variable of public acceptance towards the new government (Pakatan Harapan) which influenced the tendency of the decision making process of Malaysian to change the government and eventually voted Pakatan Harapan, while the other Beta (($\beta$) values shown, Level up the Minimum Wage ($\beta$=0.184) was the strongest significant relations towards the dependent variable of public acceptance on the new government (Pakatan Harapan). Besides that, based on coefficients significant level of Multiple Linear Regression analysis indicated the standardized significant value must be or less than 0.05. They were four independent variables and hypotheses are accepted for each dependent variable. Thus, the null hypothesis (H0) for H1 (Sig.= 0.000), H2 (Sig.= 0.726), H3 (Sig.= 0.000), H6 (Sig.= 0.002) is accepted. The remaining null hypothesis (H4 and H5) is rejected and accepted the alternate hypothesis (Ha).

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