

POLICY BRIEF

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NATIONAL COMMUNITY POLICY (NCP)

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February 17, 2019, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the National Community Policy. The objective of this policy is “ecstatic and happy community”; Tun wants to build the spirit of competitiveness and unity to members of community to live in conducive, harmonies and prospers environment. Indeed, the idea is to “enhance the capability of the community and the approach of the government to mold and motivate people to be aware and sensitive of the properties, space and facilities shared with the local community”.

This policy keen to mold a community that is more concerned towards social issues and creates a more prosperous life. Emphasizing on the aspects of value, way of life as well as the social aspects practiced by the urban community. Housing Local Community Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin said: “through this policy, ministries wish to see the community that would be active in keeping surrounding clean and safe and high moral and civic consciousness culture of advice and mutual benefit of everyone, thus this policy determines to achieve community empowerment, improve the overall living environment of the B40 group, and educate the local community for future policy enforcement”.

The objective of this policy is ecstatic and happy community.

Implementation of this Policy would focus on eight main clusters; infrastructure and maintenance; cleanliness, environment and health; safety; education, awareness and skills; caring for the needy, elderly, women, children and disabled; social services; entrepreneurship and social business; and sports and recreation; to ensure holistic community development.

This policy brief present gap analysis of the said policy

The first gap; 75.6 per cent of the total population is living in the urban areas, which made efforts to develop and empower the urban community as unavoidable, and in fact should be given special emphasis by the related Ministry. We all aware of the challenge of living in urban city; we heard about this over and over in news and in media, and Kuala Lumpur is the city which is full with different community, clusters and conjunctions everywhere, and then coming with a policy that wants to build the spirit of competitiveness and unity to members of community to live in conducive, harmonies and prospers environment. Can everyone get along to one another better with this kind of environment? There is an issue on how that can be implemented? What is a practice of conducive, harmonies and prospers environment stands for?

In particular we see, some initiatives and policy recommendation to be used, that is;

- The need to introduce conducive, and harmonies principle as a way of life.
- Communicates common values among people.
- The principle should be imbedded in morality, religion, and education; and communicate the common value in school and in different environments.
- Build a framework of how community should live together peacefully.
- Participate in community development process
- Involve consumers in assessing needs
- Establish community-wide support
- Invest in relationships building and speak the language
- Conduct community research

In explaining the second gap; the ministries wish to see the community that would be active in keeping surrounding clean and safe and high moral and civic consciousness culture of advice and mutual benefit of everyone". The policy hopes to see how the Malaysia community function and interact with one another, how they can be a part of a whole process of community, environment and neighborhood, and what quality of life the Malaysian should have. The idea sounds excellent, but here will be lots of resistances; and there will be lots of issues; issue of planning, issues of security, and issue of awareness; so what a practice of mutual advises means and stands for in this situation?

Among the initiatives to be undertaken by the Ministry are;

- Continuous awareness and education is crucial, and it will be effective, especially for those who are too stubborn to change, if it is enforced.
- Personal development skills, consumer education, financial education, vocational skills, health education and awareness programs on various issues.
- Government departments and agencies should involve in corporate social responsibility (CSR) program to help improve the quality of life of the respective communities.
- Enforce and establish good manner as a part of social interaction
- Authorities need to act as a role model.

The third gap; the Minister said: “through this policy, ministries wishes to see the community that would be active in keeping surrounding clean and safe”. This policy is the ministry’s initiative to ensure holistic community development and way to improve the overall living environment of the B40 group. Thus consumers and residents, have important responsibilities to ensure the cleanliness, safety and prosperity of the community. The issue is that in too many communities, damage and destruction of public property is continuously occurring; this form of selfish and destructive behavior of a few individuals can have strong negative effects on the community as a whole, so how to change people’s behavior? And why the focus is only on B40 group?

Among the initiatives to be undertaken by minister are;

- Remember, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves
- Continuous awareness and education to all people
- Inculcate Good behavior and good Akhlaq
- Intensive personal development skills
- Introducing a rewards system for the cleanliness, safety and prosperity of the community
- Fines and penalties for not caring about the environment
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The fourth gap; the policy covers the eight main clusters, and minister is going to establish this policy in stages at all 133 PPRs across the country. The minister Zuraida said: “implementation of the National Community Policy would focus on eight main clusters including infrastructure and maintenance; cleanliness, environment and health; security; and education and skills”. The idea sounds great, but how to change community life with single policy? If yes, can one ministry handle this policy alone? How to get an effective and sustainable results?

Among issues that the Minister has to listen to are;

- Come up with intensive programs for different group at different times
- Listen to the community and encourage them to share and address common issue; understanding what community needs, then engage with the authorities to address broader community issues and then change according to their needs.
- Sharing information and give adequate knowledge and skills on how to apply this policy
- Awareness needed more on how to assessing all communities.
- Legislation is needed to support this policy.
- Invest on people, empowering common citizens; leadership should come from bottom up.

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