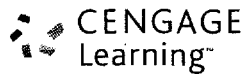

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN MALAYSIA



Edited by
ABDUL RASHID MOTEN

Government and Politics in Malaysia

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Abdul Rashid Moten



Australia • Brazil • Japan • Korea • Mexico • Singapore • Spain • United Kingdom • United States



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Government and Politics in Malaysia

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Human Rights

Since World War II there has evolved an unprecedented international concern with respect to human rights. International organisations and individual countries have put new tools into place to improve respect for human rights. It is believed that current interest in human rights will impel governments to respect human rights more in the future than they have done in the past.

This chapter deals with human rights in Malaysia. The approach adopted in this chapter is eclectic, concentrating on the strengths and weaknesses of the human rights' regime as practiced in Malaysia. The discussion concentrates on six fundamentals of human rights: respect for the integrity of the person; respect for civil liberties; respect for political rights, more specifically, the rights of citizens in Malaysia to change their government; Malaysian government's attitude regarding international and nongovernmental investigation of alleged violations of human rights; discrimination based on race, gender, disability, language or social status; and finally, worker rights. Each of these categories in its turn is divided into further subcategories.

Human Rights Defined

Human rights have been defined as "rights to which all human beings are entitled because of their humanity and not because of their social status or individual merit."¹ Such rights are believed to be necessary for freedom and the maintenance of a reasonable quality of life. The Preamble to the

1 Abdul Rashid Moten and El-Fatih A. Abdel Salam, *Glossary of Political Science Terms: Islamic and Western* (Singapore: Thomson, 2005), 65.