



Making Sense of Election Cost

Tindak Malaysia Training #1

Contents

- What constitutes the major cost items for elections?
- Moving forward with election cost reporting and improvements

Understanding Election Costs

- Major Cost Items
 - Rentals for Sabah 2020 (53.6%)
 for Malaysian GE 1999 (44.88%)
 - Professional Services and Other Services Purchased and Hospitality for Sabah 2020 (30%), for Malaysian GE 1999 (42.4%)

- Minor Cost Items
 - Repairs (<1 %)
 - Food and Drinks (<1 %)
 - Overtime Allowance (<2%)
 - Travel and associated expenses/allowances (3 – 8 %)

* Sources: 1967 Sabah State Elections, 1995 Malaysian General Elections, 1999 Malaysian General Elections and 2020 Sabah State Election Reports/Statements by EC

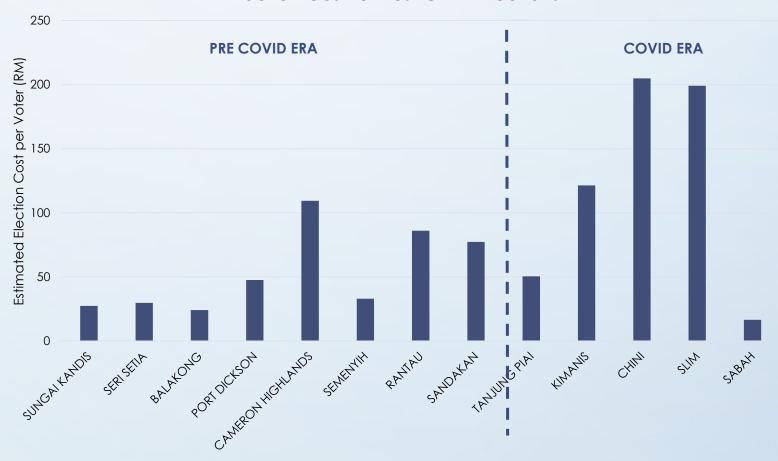
Understanding Election Costs

- Why election costs go up?
 - Increasing electorate means:
 - More polling districts
 - More polling stations
 - More polling streams
 - More polling staff
 - Increase of Parliamentary and DUN seats
 - More Returning Officers?
 - Increase in Printing Cost
 - Cost increase for ballots papers, other election materials

- Why election costs go up?
 - Increase in Price of petrol and rental rate of vehicles
 - Since 1999, EC made polling one day affair for Sabah and Sarawak
 - Led to increase in rentals for helicopters, 4WD and boats
 - Increase in allowance for polling staff
 - Establishment of Election Campaign Enforcement Teams (2004)
 - Printing of new editions of Laws (2004)
 - Increase in purchasing election materials (transparent ballot boxes, COVID procedures)
 - COVID Impact

Post GE 14 Election Costs





Rise of Costs

- On average 20+
 new polling
 streams added
 for DUN (before
 COVID) and
 around 20 for
 Parliament Seats
 (before COVID)
- COVID
 procedures
 reduce number
 of voters per
 stream (from 600
 to 400)

By Election/ State Election

Source: Election Commission (EC) of Malaysia, compiled by Tindak Malaysia (2020)

Post GE14 Election Costs

- Small Repairs (Justifiable expenses)
 - Improvement of Pavements for Kimanis Polling Centres
 - Installation of air conditioning units and lights for nomination centres (of which some are Badminton Halls)
- Other miscellaneous Costs (Justifiable expenses)
 - Renting golf buggies for schools that are uphill
 - Voter Cards (now with advisable timing)
 - Transparent envelopes for lock up keys

What are the other costs contribute to rise of election costs?

Moving Forward

References to Past

- In 1960s Election Report contained actual payment rates for various polling staff
- Itemised Budget Reports is sparse and only seems to exist for certain years
- Source of Itemised Budget Report: Parliamentary Reply and Election Report Books

30. All officers called upon to work for the Commission received

Returning Officer					140,000
Assistant Returning	Officer				\$250
Presiding Officer	***				100
Polling Clerk		444	1044	200	4
Counting Clerk		111			2
Counting Cicik		171			1

Although the rates were, generally, it might be claimed, barely commensurate with the responsibilities undertaken, officers did not look upon the election so much from its monetary angle rather than the national cause" attached to their duties.

- 31. The task of preparing and printing ballot papers for the simultaneous general elections was one of considerable magnitude requiring very great care and accuracy. Their security was of national importance and it was imperative that they be subjected to 100% security arrangement. This was kindly undertaken by the Police from the beginning of printing until the counting of votes. The production of the ballot papers was undertaken by the Government Printer and his staff who worked relentlessly round the clock with the Election Commission supplying officers to take turns at checking "proofs" and generally acting as "liaison" while the production was on.
- 32. As soon as the ballot papers were ready no time was spared in transporting them to the States under strict security escort kindly provided by the Police. The Public Works Department also kindly provided the necessary means of transport.
- 33. The printing of the ballot papers was not completed well before the target date and this affected the postal voting processes considerably. A lesson is here taught and which should certainly be applied in the future that this huge task of printing the ballot papers could not be achieved expeditiously otherwise than by decentralisation. By this it simply means that in future, States having their own Printing Departments should equally share the burden of printing the ballot papers.
- 34. The establishment of polling stations was discussed earlier under the heading—IV—POLLING DISTRICTS. The question, however, of splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station was discussed earlier under under the stations was discussed earlier under under the stations was discussed earlier under un

(11)

Example of 1960s Election Budget Reporting (EC)

Moving Forward

Moving forward

- Documenting specifics of small repairs that bring long term infrastructure
- If Election budget is not mandated for auditing, auditing should be made mandatory
- Itemised Budgeting must be given (mandatory disclosure)
- Cost exemptions for polling premise rentals (codify in law)

30. All officers called upon to work for the Commission received onoraria for their services in the following order:

Returning Officer		****			\$25
Assistant Returning	Officer	***			10
Presiding Officer	***	+44	444	200	10
Polling Clerk			100		- 33
Counting Clerk			314		1
Counting Comm			474		- 1

Although the rates were, generally, it might be claimed, barely commensurate with the responsibilities undertaken, officers did not look upon the election so much from its monetary angle rather than the "national cause" attached to their duties.

- 31. The task of preparing and printing ballot papers for the simultaneous general elections was one of considerable magnitude requiring very great care and accuracy. Their security was of national importance and it was imperative that they be subjected to 100% security arrangement. This was kindly undertaken by the Police from the beginning of printing until the counting of votes. The production of the ballot papers was undertaken by the Government Printer and his staff who worked relentlessly round the clock with the Election Commission supplying officers to take turns at checking "proofs" and generally acting as "liaison" while the production was on.
- 32. As soon as the ballot papers were ready no time was spared in transporting them to the States under strict security escort kindly provided by the Police. The Public Works Department also kindly provided the necessary means of transport.
- 33. The printing of the ballot papers was not completed well before the target date and this affected the postal voting processes considerably. A lesson is here taught and which should certainly be applied in the future that this huge task of printing the ballot papers could not be achieved expeditiously otherwise than by decentralisation. By this it simply means that in future, States having their own Printing Departments should equally share the burden of printing the ballot papers.
- 34. The establishment of polling stations was discussed earlier under the heading—IV—POLLING DISTRICTS. The question, however, of splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station into streams had to be resolved in view of the splitting a polling station was discussed earlier under under the stations was discussed earlier under under the stations was discussed earlier under un

(11)



End

Making Sense of Election Cost

Tindak Malaysia Training #1

