

**Press Statement**  
**21<sup>st</sup> October 2024**  
For Immediate Release

## **IMAN Research identifies areas to make Budget 2025 more impactful, focus to strengthen human security**

- IMAN Research identifies 6 areas which can be strengthened to improve 'human security' aspect.
- This includes mental health support, protection from violence and climate resilience

Kuala Lumpur – IMAN Research welcomes the Government of Malaysia's Third MADANI Budget 2025 as a comprehensive and inclusive plan that demonstrates a strong commitment to economic growth, infrastructure development, and national security. The budget's forward-looking approach is commendable in addressing key priorities for Malaysia's future. At IMAN Research, we believe that building on this solid foundation offers even greater potential to enhance human security and community resilience. We have identified several areas where further focus could make the budget even more impactful for the well-being of all Malaysians.



## **1. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support**

The focus on physical infrastructure and economic support is essential, and we see an opportunity to complement these efforts by enhancing mental health and psychosocial support services. Addressing the mental health needs of communities, especially those affected by displacement, natural disasters, and socioeconomic stress, is crucial for building long-lasting resilience. A focus on mental well-being will ensure that communities remain stable and productive in the face of challenges.

## **2. Protection from Violence and Social Conflict**

The budget's commitment to reducing economic disparities is a step toward a more equitable society. Strengthening it further by incorporating more measures to protect communities from violence—such as gender-based violence, domestic violence, and social conflicts—would ensure a more holistic approach to human security. Preventive initiatives and support systems for victims, alongside ongoing law enforcement reforms, would bolster community safety and harmony.

## **3. Human Trafficking and Migrant Security**

Malaysia's progress is closely linked to the protection and inclusion of all groups, including migrant workers and refugees. We see an opportunity to further strengthen the budget by focusing on measures to prevent human trafficking and ensure the security and integration of these vulnerable populations. Supporting the safety and rights of these groups is not only a matter of human dignity but also a key driver of national resilience.

## **4. Human Security and Climate Change Adaptation**

The government's efforts in flood management and disaster response are important pillars of community safety. We suggest enhancing these efforts with a broader focus on long-term climate resilience and community-based disaster preparedness. Rural and coastal communities, in particular, would benefit from additional initiatives that promote sustainable development and environmental protection, contributing to human security in the face of climate challenges.

## **5. Inclusive Disaster Management and Risk Reduction**

The allocations for disaster relief are crucial, and we believe that empowering local communities with the tools, training, and resources for proactive disaster risk reduction would make a significant difference. By equipping communities, especially those in marginalized or geographically isolated areas, to manage risks, we can foster self-reliance and ensure that all Malaysians are well-prepared for any eventualities.

## **6. Social Cohesion and Community Building**

The budget's focus on economic development in rural areas is commendable, and we see great value in expanding community-driven programs that foster social cohesion and collective resilience. By encouraging civic participation, strengthening local governance, and supporting grassroots efforts, Malaysia can build stronger, more unified communities that are the bedrock of human security and national prosperity. IMAN Research is eager to collaborate with the government and relevant agencies to further refine and implement these initiatives. With these enhancements, we are confident that the MADANI Budget 2025 will not only drive economic growth but also empower Malaysia's communities to thrive in a secure, resilient, and inclusive environment.



## Our Approach to Human Security


At IMAN Research, we view human security through a comprehensive lens that prioritizes the safety and well-being of individuals, extending beyond traditional state-centred security models. Our approach focuses on the following key areas:

### 1. Resilience is Key

Malaysia's ability to address critical issues like violent extremism, ethnic divisions, and political instability is vital. Strengthening social cohesion and tackling the root causes of conflict are essential for ensuring long-term stability and national resilience.

### 2. Regional Spill-over Effect

Security concerns are not just domestic. Regional dynamics, from hard security issues like military threats to broader human security challenges like health crises, migration, and environmental sustainability, significantly influence Malaysia's policies. These interconnected factors shape both our domestic and foreign policy agendas.

IMAN's focus on human security from 2022 to 2025 reflects our commitment to fostering a resilient and inclusive Malaysia, ready to tackle both local and regional challenges. 

-END-

## About IMAN Research

Based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, since 2015. We are a non-profit think tank focussed on protective security, peacebuilding and community resilience. We began by focusing on the domains of countering violent extremism, and ethnic-religious relations; and today, we have diversified into other areas of human security.

Our work provides reliable information to a young Malaysia and the region on issues that matter. We aim to deliver sound policy solutions and programmes for both policy makers as well as CSO who work in the field. We believe in partnering with like-minded organisation, friends and neighbours to build, manage, and sustain strong communities and cities.

For more information, please reach out to us via email at [admin@imanresearch.com](mailto:admin@imanresearch.com)

Suite 515, LG-1A, Bangsar Village, Jalan Telawi 1 Bangsar, 59100, Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: +603 2202 0444 Email: [admin@imanresearch.com](mailto:admin@imanresearch.com)