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UHE3182 MALAYSIAN STUDIES

Chapter 6 PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

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COURSE OBJECTIVE

- Know the concept of parliamentary democracy
- Discuss the element of parliamentary democracy
- Appreciate the values of parliamentary democracy



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Introduction

- Malaysia is a country that practiced parliamentary democracy since Malaya get independence 31 August 1957.
- Malaysia practices Parliamentary Democracy with Constitutional Monarchy and His Majesty The King as the Paramount Ruler.
- Malaysia now known as one of peaceful country in the world.



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Characteristics of Parliamentary Democracy



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Monarchy

1. Federal constitutional monarchy or commonly referred to as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, is the head of state as well as the leader of the Islamic faith in Malaysia. This monarch is selected for a five-year term from among their own number by the nine hereditary rulers (sultans) of Peninsular Malaysia.

(<http://www.commonwealthofnations.org>)



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Parliament

- Parliament is a legislative body in Malaysia and is responsible for passing, amending and repealing acts of law.
- A general election is held every five years or when Parliament is dissolved by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The age requirement to stand for election is 21 years and above.
- Parliament consists of Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara.
- The Dewan Rakyat consists of 222 members of Parliament (MPs) elected from single-member constituencies drawn based on population in a general election.
- The Dewan Negara consists of 70 members (Senators); 26 are elected by the 13 state assemblies (2 senators per state), 4 are appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to represent the 3 federal territories (2 for Kuala Lumpur, 1 each for Putrajaya and Labuan). The rest 40 members are appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on the advice of the Prime Minister. Senators must be 30 years or above, and are appointed to a three-year term for a maximum of two terms.

(<https://www.lawteacher.net>)



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Separation of Power

- Malaysia practiced a separation of powers into three parts which are the:
 - a. Legislative
 - b. Judiciary and
 - c. Executive.



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Federation System

- Federation system means each state in Malaysia has surrendered part of its power such as financial, defense, education, foreign affairs and others, as stated in the Federal Constitution, to be administered by the Federal Government. There are matters which are under the power of the state and each state administers those matters.

(www.parlimen.gov.my)



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Election

3. Election – where individual is given the right to choose whoever he feels capable of leading the country.

Malaysia started her first federal election in 1955 which Alliance Party (UMNO, MCA, MIC) won 51 of 52 contested seats. Alliance Party has now known as Barisan National.



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Personal Liberty

Personal liberty have been incorporated in Part II of Federal Constitution comprising of Articles 5 to 13. The Federal Constitution guarantees certain fundamental liberties (Article 5) including:

- Prohibition against slavery and forced labour (Article 6);
- Protection against retrospective criminal laws and repeated trials(Article 7);
- Equality before the law and the rights to equal protection of the law (Article 8);
- Prohibition of banishment and freedom of movement (Article 9);
- Freedom of speech, assembly and association (Article10);
- Freedom of religion (Article 11);
- Rights in respect of education (Article 12); and
- Right to property (Article 13)

(Tan Sri Arifin Zakaria: The Malaysian Perspective on Human Rights and Freedom in 21st Century and The Role of Court:<http://www.kehakiman.gov.my/>)



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Conclusion

- Parliamentary democracy has made Malaysia as a peaceful country.
- All people respect the values of democracy system
- Democracy system give all people chances to speech, speak and choose their leaders to lead the country.



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Group Discussion

- You are given a chances to do campaign on behalf of your chosen party.
- What are the importance of having election after 5 years?
- Discuss the personal liberty practiced in Malaysia
- Explain the concept of Monarchy System in Malaysia.



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- <https://www.lawteacher.net/>
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