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## CPPS Newsletter

### September 2015

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Malaysia is going through a bad patch at the moment. There has been a global slowdown and much uncertainty at home. However, this only encourages the Centre for Public Policy Studies to further to engage Malaysians on issues concerning the Rakyat and devising ways and means to improve our current situation and economic outlook.

The U.S. Federal Reserve's decision to put on hold a rise in interest rates has provided short-term relief to our embattled ringgit. We must therefore continue to find ways to lessen the fall of ringgit by improving our weakening fundamentals. To this end, we have high expectations for the newly formed Special Economic Committee. We sincerely hope that their effectiveness will not be hampered by the same forces which have brought about inefficiencies and weakened the country's economy in the first place. It is essential that we address this in remedying the structural and political problems facing our country.

This year's Malaysia Day celebrations were also marred by a show of national disunity from quarters who have proven to be self-centred disrespectful of fellow Malaysians. The statements and actions from certain individuals were outright racial, upsetting and were detrimental to National Unity. It is our hope that the authorities will act firmly against those who make racial and seditious statements that undermine our stability in society. Otherwise, our dream of National Unity is under threat.

We must all cooperate and work hard to bring this country back on the track toward unity and harmony. It is only then that our socioeconomic fundamentals will strengthen and flourish. This indeed is the basis of our nation's survival

and sustainable progress.

Salam,

Tan Sri Dr. Ramon Navaratnam  
Chairman  
ASLI Centre for Public Policy Studies

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



### Nothing Special About Special Economic Committee

*By Tan Sri Dr. Ramon Navaratnam, CPPS Chairman*

The Special Economic Committee (SEC) is made up of well known experts with wide experience in the government and business sectors. They have gone through many economic cycles and have contributed much to economic recovery solutions in the past. Hence the economic problems that we face today are not new to them. It is almost dejavu. Hence it is surprising that the SEC did not come out with a bigger bang, to announce a Policy Package of Structural Changes, to stop the current steady weakening of our fundamentals, which includes our steadily falling ringgit.

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## NEWS & UPDATES

### 2nd CPPS Malaysian Youth

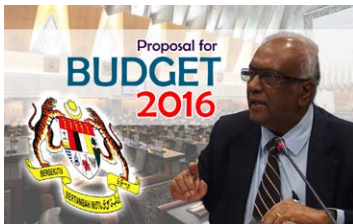


## Public Policy Roundtable

12th August 2015 - Approximately 60 youth participants from university student groups, NGOs, private sector, politics, and civil society gathered at the Malaysian Houses of Parliament to deliberate on Malaysian issues from a youth perspectives, covering topics including Work Competitiveness, Human Rights and Advocacy, Good Governance, Integrity and Political Participation, Social Inequality, Education, and National Unity. The event's theme was entitled "Generation Y: The Stars of the New Malaysia - Maximising Your Potential".

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## PERSPECTIVES



## My Proposal for Budget 2016

*The Star & The Malaysian Insider*

I am openly responding to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's public request for proposals from the rakyat for Budget 2016. Please consider my following proposals..

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By Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam



Other articles from the Chairman:

- [Strong fundamentals are weakening and we are failing](#)
- [We need transparency in political funding](#)
- [Fixing to restore confidence](#)
- [Malaysia's rise or fall depends on its moderate path ahead](#)

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## Stage set for South China Sea legal battle

*Malaysiakini & The Malaysian Insider*



The continued validity of Grotius' doctrine of the mare liberum (The Free Sea) has never been in greater jeopardy than in today's resource-rich South China Sea, where the competing territorial ambitions of China, the Philippines, and a host of other coastal states have been brought to the forefront of international attention following the Philippines' bold endeavour to check China's 'creeping invasion' by instituting proceedings before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

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By Shona Yearn



## Towards fiscal responsibility and away from democracy

*The Malaysian Insider*

Two months ago, the country accredited with founding the world's first democracy has moved away from a democratic system. In the creation of economic policies, Greece has failed to listen to the will of its own people. After a vote to not accept terms of their loan, rejecting austerity measures demanded by the country's creditors, leading many to believe that the country would default on its loans, negotiators came to a new agreement involving a new set of austerity measures.

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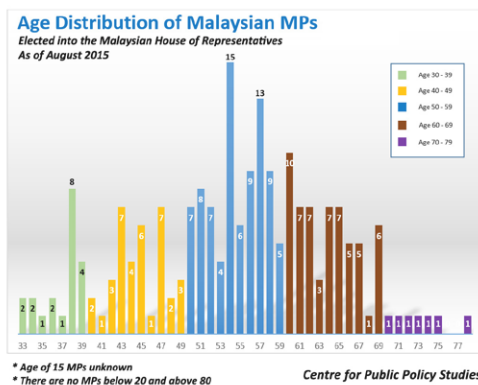
By Chris Carson



## PUBLICATIONS

### Who are our youth politicians?

Does a suitable environment exist in Malaysia for the development of youth politics? How young can one be to represent the people in government? At present, only 20 of 222 Members of



Parliament are within the Malaysian definition of youth (age 15-40). How is it possible for a young aspiring politician to be successful in politics?

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## IN THE MEDIA



### Time for 'colour-blind, holistic approach', says deputy Education Minister

*The Sun Daily*

The time has come for the nation to embed a "colour-blind, holistic approach" to education that embraces ethnic and cultural differences positively, said Deputy Education Minister Senator Chong Sin Woon.

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CHINESE PRESS:

### 拉蒙 只問國家給甚麼福利 “年輕人太自我”

中國報 (*China Press*)

吉隆坡12日訊 公共政策研究中心 CPPS 主席丹斯里拉蒙說 現在的年輕人都以自我為中心 整天只會問國家能給他們什麼好福利 很少問自己能為國家做什麼. 他說 年輕人似乎對未來心存恐懼 他們會一直想政府制定的各項政策能為他們帶來些什麼 卻似乎忘了國家不是圈定特定社群來制定政策 不是所有政策條規都合他們的心意。

Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) Chairman, Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, said that today's youth are self-centred and often expect benefits from the government, as though entitled, without first asking what they can do for the country.



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## FEATURES

A photograph of Chris Carson, a young man in a dark suit and blue tie, standing in front of a building. The building has a sign that reads 'ASIAN STRATEGY & LEADERSHIP' and 'ASIAN STRATEGY & Leadership Incorporated'. A Malaysian flag is visible on the left.

**Chris Carson**  
CPPS Summer Research Intern  
George Washington University  
Master in Arts in International Affairs

The CPPS logo, which is a blue circle containing the text 'cpps' in white and 'centre for public policy studies' in smaller white text below it.

## TESTIMONIALS

Please visit [www.cpps.org.my](http://www.cpps.org.my) for more information on our internship programme



**Chloe Ng**  
CPPS Summer Intern  
Pre-University Work Experience



**TESTIMONIALS**  
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