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Our Health Depends on Your Vote

The Malaysian Health Coalition urges all eligible Malaysian citizens to vote in the General Elections on 19 November 2022 and fulfil our constitutional duty.

Voting is important because democracies are good for your health. To prove this, we can look at the Liberal Democracy Index, which is maintained by the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. The higher the index, the more democratic the country is. In 2019, countries with an index of >0.7 had life expectancy of >70 years, while countries with an index of <0.5 had life expectancy of <60 years.

There are many possible reasons why people live longer if they live in democracies. One, smart voters will demand higher quality politicians and better public service in return for their votes. Two, democracies usually have a strong civil service and high accountability. And three, democracies are usually richer, allowing them to spend more on healthcare.

Healthcare means the care that you receive in hospitals and clinics when you're sick, with doctors and nurses delivering medicines and surgeries. After three years of COVID, we know that healthcare alone is not enough to improve our health, because our health depends on many non-healthcare factors like labour rights, social welfare protections, good nutrition, safe homes, early childhood education, and gender rights.

In total, these are called "social determinants of health". And democracies are better at promoting the social determinants of health as well, especially if we have smart and capable political leaders supported by an accountable civil service.

Democracies are good for health in many complex and inter-linked ways. Therefore, the Malaysian Health Coalition urges all eligible Malaysian citizens to vote for the best possible candidates on 19 November. Our health depends on your vote.

BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA.

Malaysian Health Coalition (Full Signature List on myhealthcoalition.org)

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