

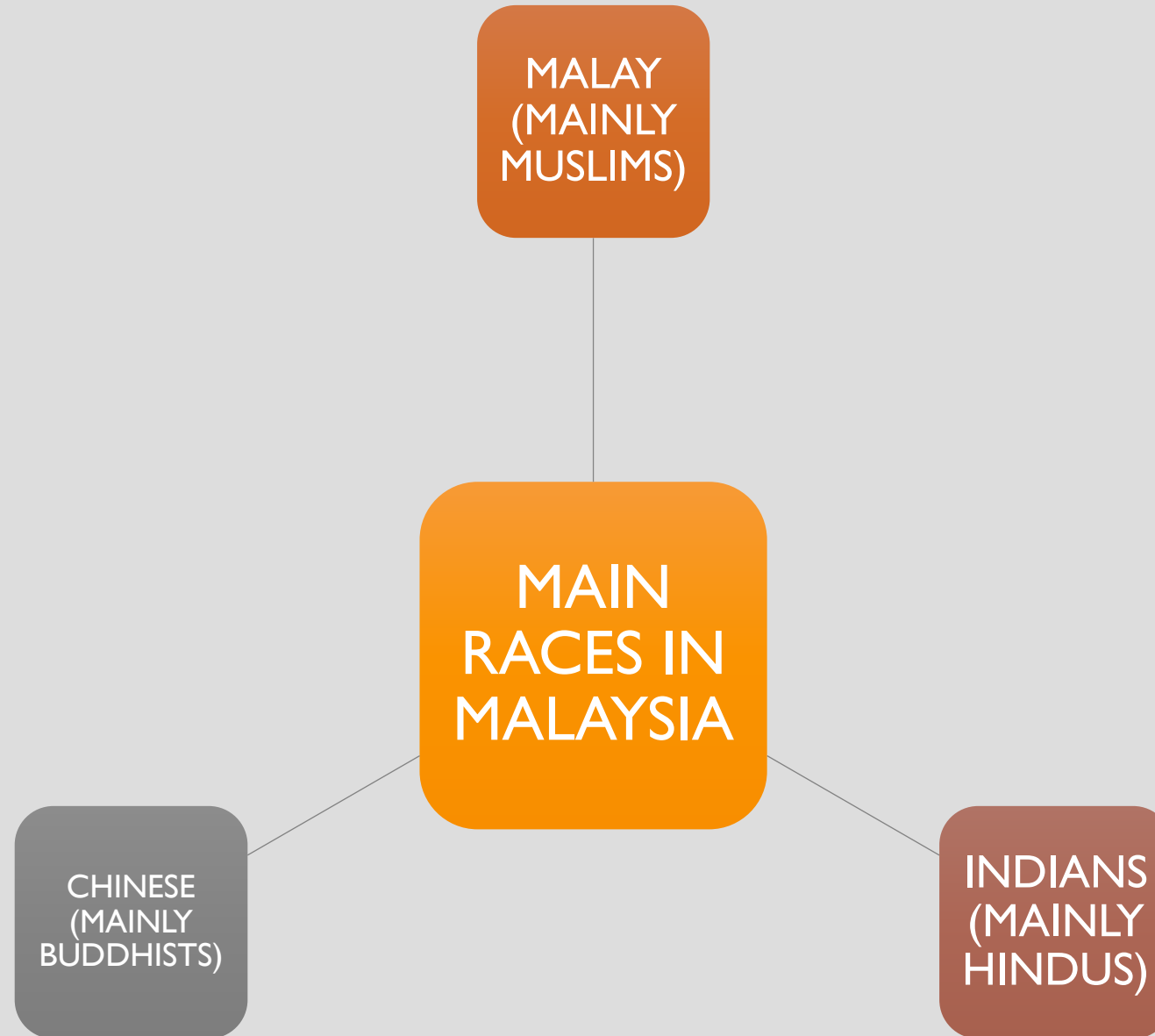
UNITY AND SOCIETY

OUTLINE

- Explain the characteristics of Malaysian society
- Discuss the government strategy to strengthen the unity
- Challenges in creating Malaysia as a multiracial society

MALAYSIAN SOCIETY/COMMUNITY

- Malaysia has a **population** of about **25 million**.
- It is a **multi-racial country** whose **social integration** has become a **model** for the **rest of the world**.
- Almost **80% of the total population** occupy **Peninsular Malaysia**.



- As a country of **diverse races, cultures and religions**, Malaysia is indeed **unique in proving how its diversity could be united and harnessed for nation building**.
- **National Unity** is very **vital** and is the **key** to Malaysia's success.
- Whether Malaysia will become a fully developed nation by the year 2020 will depend on a number of important factors, the **most important being national unity**.
- **Unity** should therefore be the **basis of all programmes and activities** for nation building.
- **Malaysians** should be more **conscious of their role** and **contribution** towards **national unity** which is paramount to the **nation's growth and development**.

- Other groups that make up the population include the **Eurasians** and the **more than 50 indigenous groups** from **Sabah and Sarawak** like the **Kadazans, Dusuns, Muruts, Ibans, Orang Ulu, Melanau, Bidayuh, Penans**, just to name a few.
- The **different races** have their **own traditions and customs** which gives Malaysia a **colourful heritage**.
- The **important festivals of each race** are a **public holiday** in the country (so there are a lot of public holidays here!) and **celebrated by all** regardless of **race and religion**.

POLITICAL INTEGRATION

- As one of the **multi-ethnic countries**, construction of **nation state** becomes the **government's crucial agenda**.
- After Malaysia achieved independence, the **first endeavor** towards **integrity** was **uniting political parties**, explicitly United Malay National Organization (**UMNO**), Malaysia Chinese Association (**MCA**) and Malaysian Indian Congress (**MIC**).
- Coalition parties
- Constitution
- Democracy system
- I Malaysia by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

- Dasar Pendidikan Kebangsaan (The National Education Policy)
- Bahasa Melayu as national language
- Islam is the official religion in Malaysia
- Malaysia Vision 2020 by Tun Dr Mahathir
- Dasar Kebudayaan Kebangsaan (The National Culture Policy)

ECONOMY INTEGRATION

- New Economic Policy (NEP) 1972-1990
- FELDA, MARA, PRIVATIZATION POLICY
- National Development Policy
- Industrialization policy

RUKUNEGARA AS NATIONAL IDEOLOGY

- The **Rukun Negara** was formulated on **31st August 1970**, on **Malaysia's 13th National Day**.
- The decision to formulate this national ideology was **triggered by the racial clash that took place on 13th May 1969**.
- Following the riots, the **government imposed curfews** and declared a **state of emergency nationwide**, invoking the **1948 Emergency Ordinance**.
- **Parliament was suspended** and the **National Operations Council (NOC)** headed by the **Deputy Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak Dato' Hussein**, served as the **temporary government of Malaysia**.

- During the **emergency period**, efforts were made to re-establish peace among the races and to prevent future clashes.
- A **Department of National Unity** and a **National Consultative Council (NCC)** were set up.
- The Department of National Unity, under the direction of the NOC, **spent nearly a year drafting a national ideology** meant to bond **Malaysia's diverse population**.
- This **draft then was deliberated by the NCC** which comprised of community leaders, businessmen, academicians, religious leaders, teachers, journalists and politicians from government and the Opposition.
- After discussions and amendments, the **Rukun Negara** was **formally promulgated by Malaysia's Yang Di-Pertuan Agong on 31st August 1970**.

CHALLENGES

- Ethnocentrism
- Economic unbalance
- Political issues
- Corruption