

Malaysia: Resolutions of the 19th National Congress of PSM

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Delegates who attended the 19th National Congress of Socialist Party of Malaysia (PSM) call for:

1. Free Malaysia from corruption, cronyism and nepotism.
2. Abolish Goods and Services Tax (GST). Introduce a progressive and fair taxation system.
3. Increase minimum wage to RM 1500 per month.
4. Implement Workers Retrenchment Fund immediately.
5. Abolish contract work system. Government should make all contract workers (e.g. security guards and cleaners) who work in governmental departments as permanent workers directly employed by government.
6. Automatic recognition of workers unions.
7. Government should repeal or amend all provisions of laws that erode labour rights, including cancel the Second Schedule of Industrial Relations Act 1967, which limited backwages awarded by Industrial Court to only 24 months.
8. Implement pension scheme for all citizens who reach retirement age.
9. Implement free education at all level of learning institutions. Government should review all license given for the operation of private colleges.
10. Stop the implementation of Full Paying Patient Scheme in government hospitals.
11. Stop privatization of public services, including health, education, water supply etc. Government should reclaim privatized public services to control their quality and costs borne by the people.
12. Housing is for the people to live in, not for corporate profit. Protect the people's right to adequate housing with the following methods:
 - Government should take concrete steps to control prices of housing, and not let the prices determined by free market.
 - Increase Property Gain Tax in order to curb speculation on properties.
 - Amend Bankruptcy Act in order to protect low income group who face problems of losing their houses due to house auctioning process.
 - Stop forced evictions against urban settlers.
 - Introduce Free Housing Policy for plantation workers nationwide. Enact laws to ensure right to housing for plantation workers.

13. Government should strive to reduce dependency of our country on food imports by protecting the rights of farmers who produce food. Stop land grabbing on farming land. Stop forced evictions against farmers. Amend National Land Code to provide legal protection for farmers. Protect the farmers to ensure food security for the people of Malaysia.

14. Repeal draconian laws that violate fundamental human rights, including Security Offences (Special Measures) Act (SOSMA), Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) and Prevention of Crime Act (POCA) which allowed detention without trial; Sedition Act and Communication and Multimedia Act which curtailed freedom of expression, as well as Universities and University Colleges Act (UUCA) which restricting students' freedom.

15. Government should review the problem of over-development with no strategy to protect the environment. Stop all projects which pollute the environment and endanger the safety of the people, e.g. development of nuclear energy plant, and encroachment on the indigenous people's territories that destroy their livelihood.

16. Protect the customary land rights of the indigenous people from threat of encroachment by government or private corporations.

17. Government should control the prices of goods. Measures need to be taken include:

- Withdraw the cancellation or cuts on subsidies for basic goods.
- Maintain subsidies in agriculture, education and healthcare.
- Control fuel price to reduce the burden of the people.
- Strict enforcement and monitoring on shops and supermarkets in setting prices for controlled goods.

18. Solve all pending problems related to citizenship, including:

- Government should approve applications of citizenship for people who reside permanently in our country for over 40 years.
- Government should announce the name list of about 2,500 individuals who got their citizenship application but yet to collect their blue identity cards.

19. Clean, free and fair election.

- Government should provide equal opportunities in TV broadcasting for all political parties contesting in General Elections.
- Government should make all citizens of Malaysia who reach 21 years old as voters automatically.

20. Restore local government elections.

21. Government should develop comprehensive policy to ensure migrant workers' rights. Government should enact laws to allow refugees to have the right to work.

22. All government bodies and corporations need to provide free childcare services for their workers at workplace.

23. A minimum of 6-month maternity leaves and 1-month paternity leaves.

24. Government should declare and gazette the International Women's Day as public holiday.

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