

MEDIA STATEMENT

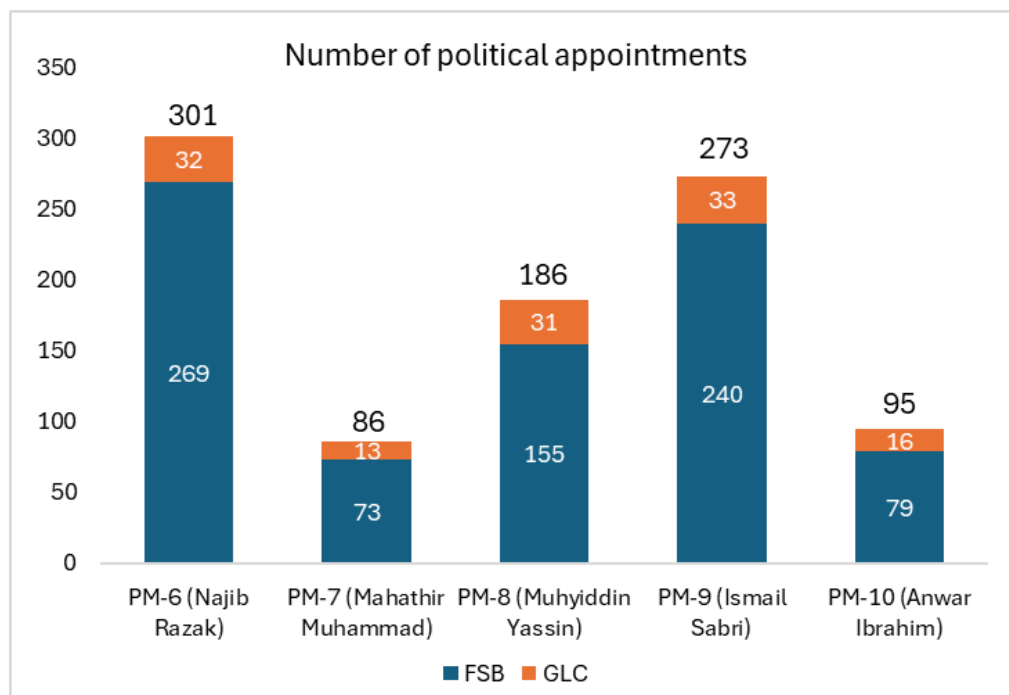
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IDEAS Identifies 95 Political Appointments in the Current Administration, Fewer Compared to Previous Administrations

Kuala Lumpur, 3 October 2024 – The Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) has updated its Pantau Kuasa website to reflect political appointments in Federal Statutory Bodies (FSBs) and Government Linked Companies (GLCs) during Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim's administration. IDEAS strongly urges the government to reform the appointments process to ensure that qualified and independent directors are appointed to oversee these entities.

We have tracked 135 FSBs and 283 GLCs across five administrations, from Prime Minister Najib Razak (PM-6) to Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim (PM-10). The FSB data was last updated in September 2024, while GLC data reflects appointments up to October 2023. Our data reveals that:

- The highest number of political appointments detected was during Najib Razak's tenure as Prime Minister, with 301 appointees.
- This was followed by Ismail Sabri (273 appointees) and Muhyiddin Yassin (186 appointees), despite both serving relatively short terms—15 months and 17 months, respectively.
- In the current administration, 95 political appointments have been identified so far. This is as compared to a total of 117 political appointments [revealed by Anwar Ibrahim in a parliamentary response recently](#).



Our analysis of the FSBs highlights a continuation of political appointments under the current administration, with 79 such appointments made. Political representation remains significant within the unity government coalition, with the highest number of appointees coming from UMNO and PKR. Notably, UMNO (22 appointments) has almost as many appointments as PKR and Amanah combined (24 appointments). There are four key figures with multiple appointments: Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Minister of Economy Rafizi Ramli, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, and former Penang EXCO member Yeoh Soon Hin.

This year, IDEAS added data on appointments to the 283 GLC subsidiaries of the FSBs that we track. Among these, IDEAS detected the highest number of political appointments during Prime Minister Ismail's tenure, with 33 appointments, followed closely by the Najib Razak administration (32) and Muhyiddin Yassin administration (31). The two Pakatan Harapan-led administrations made significantly fewer appointments among these GLCs, with 16 under Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and 13 under Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. Additionally, three individuals have held more than four positions during this period, including Suhaili Abdul Rahman, who held seven appointments under PM Muhyiddin; Zahidi Zainul Abidin with five under PM Najib, and Mohd Salim Sharif, who held positions across the PM-6, PM-8, and PM-9 administrations. These findings come from tracking only a small fraction of GLCs, given that the Audit (Accounts of Companies) Order 2017 listed up to 1,858 GLCs.

The persistence of political appointments in both FSBs and GLCs underscores the deep entrenchment of political influence in key sectors of Malaysia's public sector governance. "Malaysia currently lacks a transparent, merit-based appointment mechanism. Appointments can be used for political gain and for dishing out sinecures. It can result in poor oversight and management of these entities, further eroding public trust in Malaysia's governance structures. Members of Parliament should scrutinise the performance of FSBs and GLCs through parliamentary committees, not by sitting directly in the boards of these entities," said Aira Azhari, Acting CEO of IDEAS.

IDEAS urges the current government to strengthen its commitment to good governance and integrity. It is essential to reduce political appointments in FSBs and GLCs and implement a more transparent and merit-based appointment process. This is especially important as Malaysia addresses ongoing economic challenges and works towards sustainable national development.

"The updated findings on Pantau Kuasa show that political appointments remain a norm, even under the leadership of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. Given the increasingly complex political landscape, where different coalitions might govern Malaysia in the future, it is important for appointments to public bodies to be made transparently, with measures such as a cooling-off period in place for appointing former politicians, to prevent potential conflict of interest. Such practices are essential if we want to restore trust and build stronger institutions moving forward," Aira added.

IDEAS also acknowledges its partner, MyMP in this project. MyMP was instrumental in the data collecting and matching of names to identify political appointments. Chak Onn Lau, founder of MyMP, added "When IDEAS invited us to collaborate, we couldn't say no. The simple pitch of a list of politicians compared to a list of GLC and FSB directors is a great initiative we are proud to have helped with." MyMP, which tracks the performance of MPs, also includes badges in its online scorecards identifying MPs who are political appointees in Pantau Kuasa.

Pantau Kuasa is an active project monitoring political appointments and data is updated periodically. IDEAS encourages the public to participate by sharing any information they may have regarding political appointments or discrepancies. This input will help strengthen the transparency and accountability of public institutions. Public contributions and feedback can be submitted through the Pantau Kuasa website via a feedback form or email us at communications@ideas.org.my.

For further information, please visit the Pantau Kuasa website at www.pantaukuasa.com.

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About IDEAS

The Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) is a nonprofit research institute, dedicated to promoting solutions to public policy challenges, focussing on three overarching missions – advancing a competitive economy, ensuring trust in institutions and promoting an inclusive Malaysia. IDEAS is Malaysia's first independent think tank, free of personal interests and partisan influences.

For more information,
visit www.ideas.org.my

KENYATAAN MEDIA

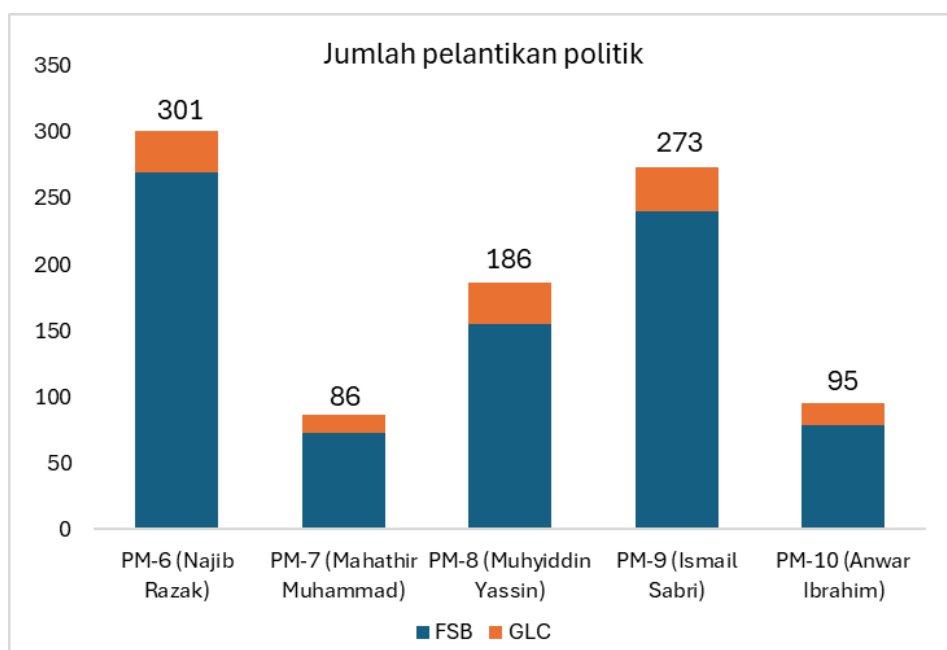
UNTUK SIARAN SEGERA

IDEAS Kenal Pasti 95 Lantikan Politik di bawah Pentadbiran Semasa, Kurang Berbanding Pentadbiran Terdahulu

Kuala Lumpur, 3 Oktober 2024 – Institut Demokrasi dan Hal Ehwal Ekonomi (IDEAS) telah mengemas kini laman web Pantau Kuasa untuk mencerminkan pelantikan politik dalam Badan Berkanun Persekutuan (FSB) dan Syarikat Berkaitan Kerajaan (GLC) semasa pentadbiran Perdana Menteri Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim. IDEAS menggesa kerajaan agar melaksanakan reformasi proses pelantikan untuk memastikan pengarah yang berkeelayakan dan bebas dilantik bagi mengawasi entiti ini.

Kami telah meneliti 135 FSB dan 283 GLC sepanjang lima pentadbiran terkini, daripada Perdana Menteri Najib Razak (PM-6) hingga Perdana Menteri Anwar Ibrahim (PM-10). Data FSB dikemas kini kali terakhir pada September 2024, manakala data GLC mencerminkan pelantikan hingga Oktober 2023. Data kami menunjukkan bahawa:

- Jumlah pelantikan politik tertinggi dikesan semasa tempoh pentadbiran Najib Razak sebagai Perdana Menteri, dengan 301 pelantikan.
- Hal ini diikuti oleh pentadbiran Ismail Sabri (273 pelantikan) dan pentadbiran Muhyiddin Yassin (186 pelantikan), walaupun kedua-duanya berkhidmat dalam tempoh yang agak singkat— masing-masing selama 15 bulan dan 17 bulan.
- 95 pelantikan politik telah dikenal pasti di bawah pentadbiran semasa, berbanding 117 pelantikan sebagaimana yang diumumkan oleh Perdana Menteri Anwar Ibrahim dalam satu jawapan bertulis di Parlimen baru-baru ini.



Analisis kami terhadap FSB menunjukkan kesinambungan pelantikan politik di bawah pentadbiran semasa, dengan 79 pelantikan sedemikian dibuat. Perwakilan politik kekal signifikan dalam gabungan kerajaan perpaduan, dengan jumlah pelantikan tertinggi datang daripada UMNO dan PKR. UMNO (22) mempunyai bilangan pelantikan yang hampir sama banyak dengan gabungan PKR dan Amanah (24). Terdapat empat tokoh utama yang memegang beberapa jawatan lantikan: Perdana Menteri Anwar Ibrahim, Menteri Ekonomi Rafizi Ramli, Timbalan Perdana Menteri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, dan bekas ahli majlis mesyuarat kerajaan negeri Pulau Pinang Yeoh Soon Hin.

Tahun ini, IDEAS telah menambah data mengenai pelantikan kepada 283 anak syarikat GLC daripada FSB yang kami jejak. Antaranya, IDEAS mengesan jumlah pelantikan politik tertinggi semasa pentadbiran Perdana Menteri Ismail Sabri dengan 33 pelantikan, diikuti rapat oleh pentadbiran Najib Razak (32) dan pentadbiran Muhyiddin Yassin (31). Kedua-dua pentadbiran yang diterajui Pakatan Harapan membuat pelantikan GLC yang jauh lebih sedikit, dengan masing-masing 16 pelantikan di bawah Perdana Menteri Anwar Ibrahim dan 13 pelantikan di bawah Perdana Menteri Mahathir Mohamad. Selain itu, tiga individu telah memegang lebih daripada empat jawatan dalam tempoh ini, termasuk Suhaili Abdul Rahman, yang memegang tujuh jawatan lantikan di bawah PM Muhyiddin; Zahidi Zainul Abidin dengan lima jawatan lantikan di bawah PM Najib, dan Mohd Salim Sharif, yang memegang jawatan lantikan di bawah pentadbiran PM-6, PM-8, dan PM-9. Penemuan ini datang daripada penelitian terhadap hanya sebahagian kecil daripada GLC, memandangkan Perintah Audit (Akaun Syarikat) 2017 menyenaraikan sehingga 1,858 GLC.

Kewujudan berterusan pelantikan politik dalam kedua-dua FSB dan GLC menekankan pengaruh politik yang mendalam dalam sektor tadbir urus utama sektor awam Malaysia. “Malaysia kini kekurangan mekanisme pelantikan yang telus dan berasaskan merit. Pelantikan boleh digunakan untuk kepentingan politik dan memberikan jawatan sinekura. Hal ini boleh mengakibatkan pemantauan dan pengurusan yang lemah terhadap entiti ini, seterusnya menghakis kepercayaan awam terhadap struktur tadbir urus Malaysia. Ahli Parlimen boleh mengawasi prestasi FSB dan GLC melalui jawatankuasa parlimen, bukan dengan menduduki jawatan dalam lembaga pengarah entiti ini,” kata Aira Azhari, Pemangku Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif IDEAS.

IDEAS menggesa kerajaan semasa untuk memperkukuh komitmen terhadap tadbir urus baik dan integriti. Adalah penting untuk mengurangkan pelantikan politik dalam FSB dan GLC serta melaksanakan proses pelantikan yang lebih telus dan berasaskan merit. Hal ini amat penting memandangkan Malaysia sedang menangani cabaran ekonomi yang berterusan dan berusaha ke arah pembangunan negara yang mampan.

“Penemuan terkini Pantau Kuasa menunjukkan bahawa pelantikan politik masih menjadi kebiasaan, walaupun di bawah kepimpinan Perdana Menteri Anwar Ibrahim. Memandangkan landskap politik yang semakin kompleks, di mana gabungan berbeza mungkin memerintah Malaysia pada masa hadapan, adalah penting pelantikan kepada badan awam dibuat secara telus, dengan langkah seperti tempoh bertenang sebelum melantik bekas ahli politik, bagi mengelakkan potensi konflik kepentingan. Amalan sebegini penting jika kita mahu memulihkan kepercayaan dan membina institusi yang lebih kukuh pada masa hadapan,” tambah Aira.

IDEAS menghargai rakan kerjasama dalam projek ini, MyMP. MyMP memainkan peranan penting dalam pengumpulan data dan pepadanan nama dalam mengenal pasti pelantikan politik. Chak Onn Lau, pengasas MyMP menambah, “Apabila IDEAS menjemput kami untuk bekerjasama, kami tidak boleh menolak. Idea untuk membandingkan senarai ahli politik dengan senarai pengarah GLC dan FSB adalah inisiatif hebat. Kami berbangga kerana dapat membantu.” MyMP, yang meneliti prestasi Ahli Parlimen, turut menyertakan lencana pada kad skor mereka yang mengenal pasti Ahli Parlimen yang merupakan pelantikan politik dalam Pantau Kuasa.

Pantau Kuasa ialah projek aktif yang memantau pelantikan politik dan datanya di kemas kini secara berkala. IDEAS menggalakkan orang awam untuk turut serta dengan berkongsi sebarang maklumat yang mereka ada mengenai pelantikan politik atau ketidakselarasan dalam pelantikan. Input ini akan membantu memperkukuh ketelusan dan kebertanggungjawaban institusi awam. Sumbangan dan maklum balas orang awam boleh dikongsikan melalui laman web Pantau Kuasa menerusi borang maklum balas atau e-mel kepada kami di communications@ideas.org.my.

Untuk maklumat lebih lanjut, sila layari laman web Pantau Kuasa di www.pantaukuasa.com.

Untuk pertanyaan, sila hubungi:

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Tentang IDEAS

Institut Demokrasi dan Hal Ehwal Ekonomi (IDEAS) merupakan sebuah institut penyelidikan bebas dan bukan berasaskan keuntungan. Fokus IDEAS ialah mempromosikan penyelesaian terhadap cabaran dasar awam yang bertumpu kepada tiga misi menyeluruh - memajukan sebuah ekonomi yang berdaya saing, memastikan keyakinan terhadap institusi, dan Malaysia sebagai negara yang merangkumi semua. Untuk maklumat lanjut, layari www.ideas.org.my