



**THE 7<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
SEMINAR FOR  
PARLIAMENTARY  
RESEARCH SERVICES  
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***“DIFFICULTIES AND DILEMMAS IN  
PARLIAMENTARY  
RESEARCH SERVICE”***

***MALAYSIA : MS. BADRAH YUSSOF  
& Mrs. SAYANI UMAR  
(Parliamentary Research Officers)***

# FOCUS

- Vision;
- Malaysian Parliamentary Research Service;
- Research works;
- Deliverables;
- Obstacles / difficulties faced;
  - Personnel – Analyzing Issues;
  - Resources – Lack of materials; finance & infrastructure
  - Management;
  - Cost Benefits of Research Services;
  - Limitations - stakeholders;
- Overcoming the Obstacles / Difficulties;
- Recommendations; and
- Conclusion.

# VISION

- As a supreme legislative institution, Parliament of Malaysia has the vision to become the pioneer and benchmark to other local and international legislative institutions.



# MALAYSIAN PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH SERVICE

- Organization of Research Service in Malaysian Parliament
- Divided into 4 Sections - Economy, Social, Science & Security and International
- Background of Research Officers
- Experience – mix /Government / private sector (Large and Small)



# RESEARCH WORKS

- Presenting facts and organize research
- Theoretical and Practical
- Sources:
  - Research Offices;
  - Government /Agencies;
  - Universities; &
  - Think Tanks / Ministries / NGOs.



# DELIVERABLES

- What Do MPs want to know:
  - Analysis;
  - Frequently Asked Questions;
  - Short Notes;
  - Fact Sheets on Current Issues;
  - Comprehensive Reports;
  - Comparative Analysis;
  - Provides Appropriate News; &
  - Journals and Databases.

# OBSTACLES / DIFFICULTIES FACED

- Personnel
- Resources
- Management
- Limitations

# PERSONNEL – Analyzing Issues

- Solve Problems
- Clarify Alternatives
- Quick Response
- Limited Objective
- Multi-disciplinary
- Research Officers (Institutionalized Field?  
/ Mismatched position.



# RESOURCES – Lack of materials

- Constitution – Right to get documents & Information from the authorities. e.g., Ministry of Home Affairs and Defence
- Protected documents under Official Secrets Act 1972
- Requirement of the Law – Documents in Courts / Sub-judice Issues
- Government/ Executive MPs vs. Opposition Parties
- Access to Insider Information.

# RESOURCES

## – Finance, infrastructure

- **Finance**

- Better Facilities/infrastructure
- Resources (Insufficient Exposure).

- **Development of Data-bank**

- Access only by clients/MPs & Top Management
- Officials within Malaysian Parliament.
- A challenge by itself (Quality vs. Quantity).

# LIMITATIONS - STAKEHOLDERS

MPs have:

- Different Background/exposure; or
- Different Aspiration.



# OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES / DIFFICULTIES

- Expertise requirement – institutionalized field/memory
- Awareness on the needs of MPs – strict deadlines, scope and objectives
- The ability to anticipate wide-ranging issues
- Confidentiality when dealing with MPs
  - MPs are subject to scrutiny by the public.



# CONT. OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

- Well-read;
- Knowledgeable and well-versed in legislature intricacies;
- Able to think on his or her own feet;
- Open to ideas and opinions of others; or
- Committed and interested in research/its results.

# COST BENEFITS

- **Result Should Be Tangible**
  - Reflect the realities;
  - Narratives ensure influence; and
  - Affirming the needs / immaterial as to time.
- **Objective Oriented**
  - Instructive in Nature; and
  - Capitalize the Results.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Researchers should be provided/accorded with the following:
  - more resources and materials;
  - more exposure;
  - suitable trainings and courses based on their area/speciality; and
  - recognition based on their standing and merit.

# CONCLUSIONS

- Research Services as an independent actor – free from bias and non-partisan.
- Practical decisions to make policy conclusion
- Research works should be efficient / relevant / with balanced objectives and in line with the development/realities around the world.



# THANK YOU FROM MALAYSIA

❖ Ms. Badrah Yussof

❖ Mrs. Sayani Umar

