



## NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREAT: IMPACT AND CHALLENGE ON MALAYSIAN SECURITY

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### Abstract:

This study aims to analyse the impact of non-traditional security threats on Malaysia's security, identify the critical challenges posed by these threats, and propose recommendations for enhancing Malaysia's capacity to address them effectively. The investigation into Malaysia's non-traditional security concerns was conducted through a rigorous and comprehensive analysis process involving information gathered from various sources. This approach allows researchers to gain a deeper understanding of such threats and their prevalence in the country. The study also examines their effects on national security policy, providing valuable insights that can aid in formulating countermeasures to safeguard Malaysia's interests and bolster its resilience. In this research paper, a qualitative approach is employed, utilizing secondary data from articles, reports, and relevant documents related to non-traditional security threats. The research objectives are to analyse the impact of these threats on Malaysia's security, identify the key challenges posed, and propose recommendations for enhancing the capacity of both government and private entities to address these issues.

### Keywords:

Asia-Pacific Region, Malaysia, Security Landscape, Non-Traditional Security Threats

## Introduction

Non-traditional threats, as defined by Fanoulis and Kirchner (2016), encompass a diverse range of issues that are often interconnected and cross borders, affecting states, communities, and

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individuals alike. Examples include environmental degradation, economic instability, demographic shifts, terrorism, cybercrime, pandemics, and information warfare. These threats have become increasingly prominent in global affairs, posing significant challenges to peace and security. In the Malaysian context, the impact of non-traditional security threats on the country's stability and security cannot be understated. Malaysia has faced a multitude of challenges in recent years, ranging from cyber security breaches to environmental degradation. These threats not only endanger the safety and well-being of its citizens but also undermine socio-economic development and regional stability (Anuar et al., 2023). Specifically, Malaysia grapples with internal security concerns such as national unity, challenges to its democratic system and issues related to illegal immigration and refugees. Along its borders, additional security challenges arise, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and illegal wildlife trade. These challenges strain bilateral relations and demand concerted efforts to address them effectively. It has been estimated that the number of illegal migrants in Malaysia is between 450,000 and 600,000, but no one, including government security agencies, could have the exact figure (Yap Mun Ching 2010). Some reports estimated that Malaysia is a home to 750,000 illegal foreign workers (Malaysiakini, Online, March 20, 2010).

Understanding the intricate interplay of non-traditional security threats is imperative for policymakers in Malaysia to formulate targeted strategies and initiatives to mitigate risks, strengthen border security and foster regional cooperation. By adopting proactive and inclusive security strategies, Malaysia can enhance its resilience and mitigate the impact of non-traditional security threats on domestic and regional peace, stability and prosperity (Azmi et al., 2020).

Malaysia is a strategic country located in Southeast Asia. This is a significant threat for non-traditional security threats that need to be faced now. The coastal and maritime areas in Malaysia are vast, exposing the country to the risk of rising sea levels and natural disasters such as floods and landslides. If this happens, it can result in damage to property and loss of life. Among the threats faced now is the threat of terrorism, including inside and outside the country. The country has been targeted by various terrorist groups, such as ISIS and is a hub for the spread of radical ideologies. This is a major concern that requires constant vigilance as well as a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy. In this modern age, cyber security is a challenge and requires observation and action from the government to deal with this problem. Due to Malaysia's growing digital economy and reliance on information and communication technology, it is vulnerable to cyber-attacks. Among the consequences if this attack occurs is that it can disrupt critical infrastructure, steal sensitive information and affect national security. There are several security threats in Malaysia that have been recorded as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Security Threats To Malaysia**

Existing and Continuous Threats	Emerging Security Risks and Threats
<p>National National Integration and Societal Cohesion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Politicization of Race and Religion</li> <li>• Territorial and Maritime Dispute</li> <li>• Spillover Effect of Neighbouring Countries' Political and Economic Crisis</li> <li>• Religious Fundamentalism,</li> </ul>	<p>Contagious Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Security</li> <li>• Environmental Degradation</li> <li>• Illegal Immigrants and Refuges</li> <li>• Transnational Organized Crime such as human smuggling and drug trafficking</li> <li>• Governance, Justice and</li> </ul>

Terrorism and Political Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign Intervention</li> </ul>	Democratization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty and Food Security</li> <li>• Cyber threat</li> </ul>
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**Table 2: Numbers Of Human Trafficking Victims Working In Prostitution In Malaysia**

COUNTRIES	2007	2008	2009	2010	TOTAL
COMBODIA	14	4	8	9	35
CHINA	4379	3711	3500	3400	14990
INDIA	18	200	205	234	657
INDONESIA	1181	1171	1134	1243	4729
THAILAND	900	892	870	879	3541
PHILIPINE	761	970	923	765	3419

Reference: The Royal Police of Malaysia, Bukit Aman 2010

In conclusion, Malaysia faces various complex non-traditional security threats and requires a holistic approach and cooperation from all agencies to ensure national security is always guaranteed. To address this challenge, it requires a shift in perspective to include non-military threats in the security agenda alongside traditional threats to safeguard Malaysia's stability and well-being in the face of global uncertainty.

### Literature Review

The border of Malaysia is divided into two: East Malaysia and West Malaysia. The former is made up of Sabah and Sarawak, while the latter includes peninsular Malaysia. Both of these territories are located within the South China Sea's boundaries. Peninsular Malaysia covers 131,585 square kilometres, while East Malaysia is 9,210,080 square kilometres. As a single nation, Malaysia is also a neighbour to several Southeast Asian countries, such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore. The first border example is The Malaysia and Thailand Border. The border between Thailand and Malaysia used to be a maritime and land boundary. It spans an area of 646.5 kilometres.

In addition, Malaysia's security is vulnerable to various threats, not only from traditional military activities but also from other sources. These include transnational criminal organisations such as human trafficking and illegal immigrants, as well as terrorism. Malaysia has 138 border checkpoints that are controlled by various agencies. These include land, air and sea checkpoints. Some of the agencies that control these checkpoints include the Royal Malaysian Police, the Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia, the APMM and the Malaysian Armed Forces. They are responsible for maintaining Malaysia's borders at various checkpoints (Zainol et al, 2019). When addressing the problem of crime, it is important to consider the character and attitudes of individuals or certain groups who often disregard boundaries and rules. Various theories provide different perspectives on how individuals become involved in criminal activities. For example, the trajectory theory suggests that multiple factors influence delinquent behaviour through various pathways (Piquero et al., 2015). According to this theory, different trajectories lead individuals to engage in delinquent behaviour at varying rates. It identifies several potential trajectories, including biological, psychological, sociological, behavioural, and environmental factors, which can contribute to delinquent behaviour.

However, it's crucial to recognise that effectively managing these checkpoints requires coordination and cooperation among these agencies. Strengthening inter-agency collaboration and information-sharing mechanisms could enhance Malaysia's ability to comprehensively address security threats. Investing in advanced technology and surveillance systems can supplement traditional border control measures, improving Malaysia's capability to detect and deter illicit activities. Emphasising intelligence gathering and analysis can also enable proactive measures to counter emerging security threats before they escalate. While Malaysia faces vulnerabilities in its security landscape, there are opportunities for enhancement through strategic partnerships, technological advancements, and proactive security measures.

Other than that, comprehensive action needs to be implemented based on Malaysia's geographical situation. This is to ensure that the border in the North of Malaysia will always be protected from this Non-Traditional threat. For this matter to be implemented perfectly, it needs to get support and collaboration from other security agencies. For example, joint patrols between the MAF and the RMP are at the country's borders. In 2009, the former Prime Minister of Malaysia introduced the National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS). This NBOS is intended to improve the efficiency of the Government's delivery system.

### Crime in Malaysia

According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia, Malaysia's crime index ratio per 100,000 people improved to 256.6 in 2019 from 273.8 in 2018. All states experienced a decrease in their crime index ratios except for Pulau Pinang (3.7%), Sarawak (4.2%), and Terengganu (1.3%). In 2019, seven states reported crime index ratios per 100,000 population lower than the national average: Sarawak (214.6), Perlis (207.5), Perak (195.8), Pahang (195.7), Kelantan (188.2), Terengganu (150.3), and Sabah (143.5) (DOSM, 2021). Losses from criminal activities were documented based on data from the Customs Department (JKDM), Border Agency (AKSEM), the Department of Crime Investigation (JSJ), and the Department of Commercial Crime (JSJK) of the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM). From January to September 2020, approximately RM1.4 billion in losses were recorded. Commercial crime accounted for a total of 15,069 cases with losses amounting to RM648,079,306.82. The highest losses were from telecommunication fraud, totalling RM256,863,878.35. Table 3 summarizes the top five highest losses by type of crime. Land fraud resulted in losses of RM175,084,234.56 (27.02% of the total commercial crime, or 116 cases), followed by investment fraud with RM159,310,221.38 (24.58% or 1,303 cases), and Maca Scam with RM158,497,395.77 (24.46% or 1,988 cases).

**Table 3 : Top 5 Highest Loses based on Type of Crime**

Type of Crime	Reported Losses (RM) Million
Telecommunication Fraud	256.8
Land Fraud	175.08
Investment Fraud	159.3
Macau Scam	158.5
Loan Fraud	54.4

Source: PDRM (2020). Data is from January to September 2020.

**Table 4: Telecommunication Fraud in five State in Malaysia**

CONTINGENT	CASES	LOSSES (RM)
Selangor	868	84,313,547.96
Kuala Lumpur	913	54,505,490.37
Johor	713	28,312,898.82
Pulau Pinang	533	15,539,315.97
Perak	374	13,346,897.14

Table 4 shows the number of cases and value of losses incurred by telecommunication fraud by 5 states. Selangor and Kuala Lumpur recorded the highest value of losses and highest number of cases, respectively. Many other problems and crimes have been recorded by the authorities in Malaysia, each with various underlying causes. What is particularly concerning is that these crimes contribute to stress and anxiety among the Malaysian population due to their significant impact on security.

#### **Non-Traditional Security Threat.**

Non-traditional security refers to threats that differ from traditional concerns, originating from various sources and affecting multiple countries. Examples include resource scarcity, irregular migration and climate change, which pose security risks that require international cooperation. It expands the concept of security beyond states' concerns, emphasising the well-being and survival of individuals and societies. Prioritizing welfare and respect is crucial in addressing these complex issues (Mely Caballero-Anthony et al. 2016). The Malaysia-Thailand border region faces a myriad of non-traditional security issues, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, gun smuggling, contraband goods smuggling, illegal wildlife trade and illegal immigration. These challenges not only undermine regional security and stability but also exacerbate socio-economic disparities, foster organised crime, and perpetuate human rights abuses (Anuar et., al, 2023).

Non-traditional threats refer to challenges or threats that originate from non-military sources and will have implications for national and global security. Among them are terrorism, cyber-attacks, climate change, disease outbreaks, transnational crime and economic instability. Traditional security focuses mainly on military and national threats, while non-traditional security encompasses broader issues that affect the security and well-being of society and the country. Non-traditional security threats are characterised by their complexity, transnational nature and the multiple approaches required for their management and mitigation. They highlight the need for a comprehensive understanding and response that goes beyond traditional military solutions, involving multiple sectors of government and society to address the root causes and manage the risks associated with these threats.

Non-traditional security threats also necessitate a shift in focus from traditional state-centric security approaches to a more holistic human security perspective. Human security emphasizes the protection and empowerment of individuals, recognizing their inherent dignity and rights. Vulnerable and marginalised communities, including women, children, indigenous peoples and refugees, often bear the brunt of non-traditional security threats, facing heightened risks of exploitation, violence and displacement. Moreover, non-state actors, such as criminal syndicates, terrorist groups and non-governmental organisations, play a significant role in perpetuating these threats. They exploit governance gaps and regulatory loopholes to advance



their agendas, further complicating efforts to address these challenges effectively. Consequently, addressing non-traditional security threats requires multi-dimensional approaches that involve collaboration and coordination among governments, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector.

Effective responses to non-traditional security threats entail preventive measures and resilience-building initiatives aimed at reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity in at-risk regions. Early warning systems, capacity-building programs, community empowerment initiatives and sustainable development projects are crucial in mitigating the risks associated with these threats and promoting long-term stability and security. In essence, addressing non-traditional security threats requires a comprehensive understanding of their underlying causes and impacts, as well as concerted efforts to address them through international cooperation, multi-sectoral partnerships and proactive measures aimed at promoting the well-being and resilience of individuals and societies globally.

### **Non-Traditional Issue in Malaysia Region.**

The Malaysian border region faces various non-traditional security challenges that require attention and strategies to address. These challenges include income inequality, limited access to services, unequal job opportunities, exploitation of workers (such as human trafficking and labour abuses), and urban crime (such as theft, property crimes, and drug offences) (Karulus & Askandar, 2020). Tackling these issues necessitates implementing tailored development strategies, enforcing labour laws to safeguard migrant workers and enhancing law enforcement and public safety measures. However, it has also been observed that non-traditional security threats, such as illegal economic migrants, environmental degradation and transnational organised crime, are slowly beginning to dominate the security debate in Malaysia (Abdullah, 2010).

To effectively address the non-traditional security challenges in the Malaysian border region, it is crucial to focus on socio-economic development, ensuring equal access to education, healthcare and job opportunities (Zainol et al., 2019). Furthermore, proactive measures should be taken to combat human trafficking and labour abuses, including strengthening laws and regulations, providing support services for victims and enhancing collaboration between local and international authorities taking proactive measures to combat human trafficking and labour abuses is essential for protecting human rights, preventing exploitation, safeguarding vulnerable populations, promoting global security and fulfilling international obligations. By addressing these issues comprehensively and collaboratively, countries can work towards creating a world free from trafficking and exploitation, where all individuals are treated with dignity, respect and equality. Elaboration about these strategies as follows:

### **The Key Challenges Posed by Non-Traditional Security Threats to Malaysia.**

Malaysia's security landscape is undergoing a transformation. While traditional military threats remain, non-traditional security threats are emerging as significant challenges. These non-traditional security threats, often transnational and non-military in nature, pose multifaceted risks to a nation's social, economic and environmental well-being. This study aims to identify three key challenges posed by non-traditional security threats to Malaysia's security.

One major challenge lies in balancing national security with economic development. Rapid economic growth in Malaysia has often come at the expense of the environment. Deforestation,

pollution and climate change threaten ecosystems and displace communities, as documented in a 2013 study by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (United Nations Environment Programme, 2013). While environmental regulations are crucial for long-term security, they can also hinder short-term economic gains. This creates a dilemma for policymakers who must find ways to promote sustainable development that protects the environment while ensuring economic prosperity.

Another key challenge lies in the evolving nature of non-traditional security threats. Transnational organized crime, for example, is constantly adapting its methods. Cybercrime, a growing concern, requires robust cybersecurity infrastructure and international cooperation to combat. A 2022 report by the ASEAN Cybercrime Operations Centre (ACOC) highlights the increasing sophistication of cyberattacks in Southeast Asia (ASEAN Cybercrime Operations Centre, 2022). Traditional security forces may struggle to keep pace with these rapidly evolving threats, requiring continuous adaptation and investment in new capabilities.

The social fabric of a nation is often the first line of defence against non-traditional security threats. However, societal inequalities and economic hardship can exacerbate the impact of these threats. Pandemics like COVID-19 disproportionately affect marginalised communities, as documented in a 2021 study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (United Nations Development Programme, 2021). Mitigating the impact of non-traditional security threats requires not just addressing the threats themselves but also building societal resilience through social programs and promoting inclusivity.

Non-traditional security threats pose complex challenges to Malaysia's security. Balancing development and environmental protection, adapting to evolving threats, and fostering societal resilience are crucial to building a comprehensive national security strategy. By acknowledging these challenges and implementing innovative solutions, Malaysia can navigate the evolving security landscape and ensure its long-term security.

### **Strengthening Laws and Regulation.**

Firstly, Improving the Legal Framework. Malaysia should review and strengthen its legal framework to ensure that it can effectively deal with all forms of human trafficking and labour abuse. This includes updating laws that cover existing forms of exploitation and ensuring that severe actions and punishments are meted out to those who violate them (Saad et al., A. (2017).

Secondly, Improve Law Enforcement Training. Law enforcement agencies need specialised training to effectively identify victims of labour trafficking and abuse. This is aimed at giving an understanding of this crime and taking appropriate action while respecting the rights and dignity of the victims (Ismail et al., K. (2017).

Lastly, Labor Recruitment Regulation. Emphasis and strict control are given to agencies involved in labour recruitment so that no exploitation is done. This includes transparency in the recruitment process, eliminating recruitment fees for employees and ensuring employment contracts are fair and easy to understand (Low Choo Chin. (2020).

### **Providing Support Services for Victims.**

Establish a Comprehensive Support System. Victims of human trafficking and labour abuse need a variety of support services, including legal aid, psychological counselling and medical

care. These services should be easily accessible and tailored to the specific needs of victims (Jeyabalan, R., & Nordin, R. (2019). Empowering Victims Through Vocational Training. Offering vocational training and educational opportunities to victims. This can help them rebuild their lives and give them the skills they need to get a legitimate job (Michael, S.,2014). Ensuring Protection of Victims in Legal Processes. Protecting victims during legal proceedings against traffickers or abuse cases. This includes naming their witnesses, providing them with legal representation and ensuring their safety from threats or reprisals (Saad et al.; A.,2017).

### **Enhancing Collaboration.**

**Fostering Local and International Partnerships.** Combat human trafficking and labour abuse require cross-border coordination as this involves two countries. Among the activities that can be implemented is creating partnerships between countries, law enforcement agencies, international organisations and NGOs to enable intelligence resource sharing (Michael, S.,2014).Next, **Engage the Private Sector.** Businesses play an important role in preventing labour abuses in their supply chains. Promoting corporate responsibility through incentives and regulations can encourage companies to conduct due diligence, audit their supply chains for labour abuses and implement ethical labour practices (Saad et al.; A.,2017). In addition, **Raise Public Awareness.** Educate the public about the signs of human trafficking and labour abuse by empowering communities to report suspected cases. Awareness campaigns can also inform potential victims of the risks and resources available for help (Hamzah et al., W. A. (2019).

### **Research Method**

According to Walliman (2010) in *Research Methods: The Basics*, research methods encompass a range of activities. These include understanding the nature of knowledge and the reasons for conducting research, planning research projects, considering ethical aspects, and selecting appropriate data types and measurement methods. Collecting and analysing data to reach valid conclusions are also integral parts of this comprehensive approach. This highlights the importance of a methodical approach to effective research across various fields (Walliman, 2010). The research on non-traditional security threats facing Malaysia is inherently qualitative, utilizing a rigorous methodology from data collection to final analysis. This study explores the detailed process involved, emphasizing the meticulous approach taken to gather, analyse, and interpret data from various reputable sources.

The collection of qualitative data involves accessing a diverse range of sources, including library resources, scholarly articles and journals, internet databases, and briefings from security agencies. Libraries such as the Malaysia Armed Forces Staff College Library, the Ministry of Defence Library, and the National Defence University of Malaysia Library are invaluable repositories of information on security issues. Researchers can access a wealth of books, reports, and academic publications that provide comprehensive insights into non-traditional security threats. Additionally, scholarly articles and journals are crucial for offering in-depth analyses and academic discourse on the subject. By exploring academic databases, researchers can identify relevant studies and publications that enhance the understanding of non-traditional security challenges in Malaysia. These sources serve as foundational pillars for the research, providing both scholarly perspectives and empirical evidence to support the investigation.

In addition to academic sources, the internet is a valuable tool for gathering supplementary information and staying updated on recent developments. Online databases, government websites, and reputable news sources provide access to current data and reports, ensuring that



the research remains relevant and up to date. Moreover, briefings and presentations conducted by security agencies offer firsthand insights into ongoing efforts to address security threats in Malaysia. Attending these briefings allows researchers to engage directly with key stakeholders and decision-makers, enriching their understanding of the security landscape. Regarding data analysis, qualitative methods require a systematic approach to analysing textual data. Techniques such as thematic analysis and content analysis are used to identify patterns, themes, and meanings within the collected data. Through careful coding and categorization, researchers uncover recurring themes and concepts, shedding light on the nature, impact, and challenges of non-traditional security threats in Malaysia.

In conclusion, the qualitative research on non-traditional security threats in Malaysia adheres to a comprehensive and meticulous methodology, incorporating data collection from diverse sources and employing rigorous analysis techniques. By utilizing a variety of qualitative sources and analytical tools, researchers aim to offer a nuanced understanding of the security landscape, ultimately contributing valuable insights to the field of security studies.

## Finding

### *The Impact of Non-Traditional Security Threats on Malaysia's Security.*

Malaysia, like many nations, faces a complex security landscape. While traditional threats like military aggression remain a concern, the rise of non-traditional security threats presents a significant challenge. These non-traditional security threats, often transnational and non-military in nature, can destabilise a nation's security by impacting its social, economic and environmental well-being. This study analyses the impact of non-traditional threats on Malaysia's security, highlighting key threats and their multifaceted effects.

One prominent non-traditional security threat is environmental degradation. Malaysia's rapid economic development has come at a cost, with deforestation, pollution and climate change jeopardising both ecological health and human security. Deforestation disrupts ecosystems and displaces indigenous communities, as documented in a 2019 study by the World Wildlife Fund (World Wildlife Fund, 2019). Rising sea levels threaten coastal populations and infrastructure, as reported by the Malaysian government's National Security Council (National et al. of Malaysia, 2021). These environmental issues exacerbate resource scarcity, potentially leading to social unrest and conflict.

Another critical non-traditional security threat is transnational organised crime. Smuggling rings, human trafficking networks and cybercrime pose significant threats. These criminal activities undermine public safety, erode the rule of law and hinder economic development. A 2020 report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlights the increasing presence of transnational organised crime groups in Southeast Asia, including Malaysia (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2020). The illicit activities of these groups can fuel corruption and instability within the nation.

The spread of infectious diseases also presents a significant security challenge. The emergence of pandemics like COVID-19 demonstrates how public health threats can quickly become national security concerns. Disruptions to global supply chains, economic hardship and social unrest can all be consequences of widespread outbreaks. Malaysia's effective response to COVID-19, detailed in a 2021 publication by the Ministry of Health (Ministry of Health

Malaysia, 2021), serves as a positive example. However, future pandemics highlight the need for robust public health infrastructure and international cooperation to mitigate such threats.

Mitigating the impact of non-traditional security threats requires a multifaceted approach. Investing in sustainable development practices that protect the environment is crucial. Strengthening law enforcement agencies and fostering international cooperation are essential to combat transnational crime. Additionally, bolstering public health systems and promoting preparedness for future pandemics is vital.

In conclusion, non-traditional security threats significantly challenge Malaysia's security. These threats, from environmental degradation to transnational crime and pandemics, require a comprehensive and adaptable security strategy. Malaysia can build resilience and safeguard its future security by investing in sustainable development, strengthening law enforcement and prioritising public health.

### **Recommendations for Enhancing Malaysia's Capacity By Both Government and Private Entities to Address Non-traditional Issues and Promote Border Security and Development.**

Non-traditional security threats pose a multifaceted challenge to Malaysia's security and development. These threats require a comprehensive and collaborative approach, from environmental degradation to transnational crime and pandemics. This study proposes recommendations for both government and private entities to enhance Malaysia's capacity to address non-traditional security threats and promote border security and development.

#### **Government Recommendations.**

**Invest in Sustainable Development.** The government can prioritize sustainable development practices by promoting renewable energy, strengthening environmental regulations and supporting green initiatives. Collaboration with research institutions can also develop innovative solutions for resource management and climate change adaptation, as suggested in the National Policy on Climate Change 2009 (Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia, 2009).

**Strengthen Border Security and Management.** Enhancing border security requires increased investment in technology like surveillance equipment and drones for effective border monitoring. Additionally, fostering closer cooperation with neighbouring countries through joint patrols and information sharing can be crucial in combating cross-border threats like smuggling and human trafficking (Balasubramaniam & Chew, 2018).

**Promote Public-Private Partnerships.** The government can leverage private sector expertise by establishing public-private partnerships (PPPs) to address specific challenges. PPPs for cyber security infrastructure development or joint initiatives with NGOs to build community resilience against pandemics are examples of such collaborations.

#### **Private Sector Recommendations.**

**Adopt Responsible Business Practices.** Private companies can contribute to a more secure environment by adopting responsible business practices, such as minimizing environmental

impact and adhering to ethical labour standards. Implementing robust cybersecurity measures can also help mitigate cyberattacks and protect national infrastructure.

**Invest in Border Communities.** Private entities can invest in border communities by creating employment opportunities and promoting economic development. This can alleviate poverty and social inequalities, potentially reducing the appeal of criminal activities often associated with border regions (Latif, 2014).

**Support Public Awareness Campaigns.** Private entities can collaborate with the government to raise public awareness about non-traditional security threats. Educational campaigns on cybersecurity hygiene, environmental conservation and the dangers of transnational crime can empower citizens to become active participants in national security.

By working collaboratively, the government and private sector can enhance Malaysia's capacity to address non-traditional security threats and promote border security and development. Malaysia can build a more resilient and secure future through investments in sustainable development, robust border management and public-private partnerships. Additionally, private sector commitment to responsible business practices and community development initiatives can further bolster national security. By acknowledging the interconnectedness of these security challenges, Malaysia can navigate the evolving security landscape and ensure its long-term stability and prosperity.

## Conclusion

The study of non-traditional security threats in Malaysia reveals a complex and evolving landscape that poses significant challenges to national stability and security. These threats, encompassing environmental degradation, transnational organized crime, cyber-attacks and public health crises, necessitate a multifaceted response. The research underscores the importance of a holistic approach that integrates sustainable development practices, advanced border security measures and robust public-private partnerships. By leveraging technological advancements and fostering international cooperation, Malaysia can enhance its capacity to address these non-traditional threats effectively. Moreover, promoting public awareness and responsible business practices are critical components in building societal resilience against these pervasive challenges. The findings of this study contribute valuable insights into the formulation of comprehensive security strategies, emphasizing the need for proactive and inclusive measures to safeguard Malaysia's national security and socio-economic development in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

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