

22-Point Recommendations in Reforming Political Financing

Number	Recommendations
1	<i>Review the provisions in the Malaysian Constitution and the legislation governing the Election Commission to enhance its autonomy and independence.</i>
2	<i>Introduce appropriate mechanisms to enhance the independent functioning of the Election Commission.</i>
3	<i>Make it mandatory for the election expenses of political parties and candidates to be independently audited by certified auditors before submission to the Election Commission.</i>
4	<i>Build the capacity of the Election Commission to verify the reporting of campaign financing.</i>
5	<i>Base the limit of candidates' and political parties' expenditures on the geographical area of the constituency and size of the electorate.</i>
6	<i>Introduce a mechanism for establishing a neutral caretaker government after elections are called.</i>
7	<i>Enact a new legislation, the Political Parties Act, to govern and regulate the functioning of political parties.</i>
8	<i>Register political parties with the Election Commission instead of with the Registrar of Societies.</i>
9	<i>Regulate internal party elections under the Political Parties Act.</i>
10	<i>Make it mandatory for disclosure of all sources of financing and expenditure by the political parties.</i>
11	<i>Amend the Election Offences Act 1954, which only regulates expenditure incurred between nomination day and polling day, to reflect all expenses incurred for general elections.</i>
12	<i>Prohibit the use of covert funding such as slush funds.</i>
13	<i>Prevent organisations linked to political parties from being used as conduits for political funding.</i>
14	<i>Impose a limit on contributions by individuals to political parties.</i>
15	<i>Prohibit political parties from receiving foreign donations.</i>
16	<i>Impose an expenditure limit on the electoral activities of political parties.</i>
17	<i>Prohibit parties from owning, directly or indirectly, and being involved in business.</i>
18	<i>Include all shareholders group in company decisions for political contributions.</i>
19	<i>Introduce direct state funding for political parties to finance their electoral and non-electoral activities.</i>
20	<i>Prohibit ownership of the media by political parties.</i>
21	<i>Repeal the Printing Presses and Publications Act (PPPA) 1984.</i>
22	<i>Allow equal and free access to the public media for all interest groups under the Political Parties Act.</i>