

# Comparative Literature Analysis of National Security Management from The Global to Malaysia

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## Abstract

The national security management structure is crucial to understand in ensuring whether the existing mechanisms are effective in dealing with national security issues and challenges. The country's approach, particularly through security agencies, should always carry out an assessment of internal and external threats from time to time, so that the integrity of the country's sovereignty remains guaranteed. The evolution of threat perception is in line with what is stated in the Malaysia Defense White Paper published in 2020 which is "the national interests in the present and future are tied to an uncertain security environment and the impact of an uncertain regional and global security environment, as well as an international strategic perspective become more complex and difficult to predict in the coming year." Therefore, it is very important for a study to be carried out to see the comparison of national security management at the global and Malaysia so that good added value can be emulated, and the constraints faced can be used as lessons for improvement. The study uses Qualitative methods through library research which is the analysis of journals and online articles to obtain the views of past scholars on internal and external threats and security management structure, including the reformation required. The results of the analysis found that the threat that occurs in Malaysia same as the global except nuclear. Both globally and Malaysia face

agency coordination problems due to national decisions and duplication of duties, state coordination issues due to the role being denied, reform failure and increased threats, weaknesses in reformation caused by political interference and there is a need for the involvement of all parties in national security management.

**Keywords:** National Security Management, Global and Malaysia, Internal and External Threats, Security Management Structure, Reformation.

## 1. Introduction

In Malaysia, the management of the national security structure is handled by various security agencies, where the National Security Council (NSC) acts as the main coordinating agency for these agencies in dealing with security issues in Malaysia. In addition to NSC, there is an agency that also handles security issues with a different function from NSC, which is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA). In contrast to security, national defense is handled by the Ministry of Defense (MINDEF) which focuses more on national defense issues with the aim of protecting national interests, especially defending sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The national security structure in Malaysia is dominated by the Malaysian Government. Compared to foreign countries such as the United States (US) and South Korea, the security structuring of these countries includes the involvement of all parties, including the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the public, which aims to ensure that national security is addressed by all parties, taking the principle of country security is a shared responsibility.

This study is related to the highlights of previous studies to see the views of previous scholars on the national security management structure from the global level to Malaysia. The analysis begins by exploring the literature on internal and external threats at the global and Malaysian levels, then analyzing the national security management structure implemented and finally identifying the highlighted reforms.

The analysis results of this study allow Malaysia to make a comparison of the internal and external threats faced in the country with the global and then be able to compare the national security management structure taken as well as a comparison of the reforms that have been implemented. This study is to ensure that Malaysia's security management is at par with global standards and meets the perception of current/contemporary threats.

## 2. Research Methodology

The study is in the form of a Literature Review which is an analysis of studies by past scholars to obtain a comparison of security management at the global and Malaysian. The study uses qualitative methods through search, description and non-numerical observation (Hamzah, 2010). Qualitative data collection methods commonly used are observation, interview and document analysis (Jasmi, 2012). Qualitative data is divided into primary data and secondary data. Primary data are original materials such as historical documents and official government reports. Secondary data is data obtained from academic journal articles, books or conference papers. Hence, the qualitative data collection method used for this study is document analysis using secondary data from online journals and articles through websites. The selection of this qualitative method is due to the fact that data collection for this study is mostly available through online sources.

Another qualitative method that will be used is the process tracing. Process tracing is a tracking method through the study of some history, archival documents, interview transcripts and other similar sources (George & Bennett, 2005). Process tracing is also a method used by scholars and researchers to evaluate and develop theories and hypotheses through the

detection process made during documentation studies. Process tracing carried out based on the implications of the mechanism which provides new understanding to decision makers regarding various factors that are potentially 'manipulated'. This method of process tracing should be done intelligently and pay attention to the environment, ethics and the broader environment of its structural context. Process tracing also helps researchers build and test theories and how to combine the use of techniques with the development of social science theories. Process tracing is only one way to capture the process (Bennett & Checkel, 2012).

Process tracing allows researchers to collect and evaluate important facts following the sequence of important events. The detection of this study was made through analysis of the crises that occurred in Malaysia starting from the establishment of Malaysia NSC as National Movement Council (MAGERAN) until now to evaluate the involvement and initiatives taken by NSC as a response to the national crisis. Therefore, this division method according to the type of security issue makes it easier for the researcher to focus on collecting research data according to the set issue.

### **3. Global National Security Management**

#### *3.1 Global Internal and External Threats*

James (2004) states that the UK is faced with the challenge of transnational criminal networks that cause law enforcement to be restructured to meet the new emerging risks of a series challenges faced by enforcement agencies in facing the presence of such networks. According to him, the coordination mechanism of UK law enforcement activities uses the National Intelligence Model (NIM). However, he is of the view that improvements can only be implemented with the development of transnational agencies and structures such as the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the Risk Analysis Center (RAC).

Tholen (2010) states that at the borders of Europe, North America and Australia there are crimes such as smuggling, terrorism and refugees or asylum seekers. Accordingly, these countries have increased border control with more allocations, personnel, agencies involved, actors involved, technology, data collection, data processing and so on. However, these increased border controls have made it difficult for people seeking protection to travel to these countries. Additionally, the new border controls appear to involve more criminal discrimination, greater reliance on smugglers and increase their involvement, also increased deaths of those attempting to arrive illegally.

Swanstrom (2007) states that drug smuggling is a global crime which develops from producer and transit countries that produces multiple interrelated threats. This involving political, economic, human and military security along the way. Therefore, it needs solutions that integrate local, national, regional, as well as global areas. He stated that drug smuggling is a cross-border crime that requires commitment from the country to deal it seriously, which international organizations could not handle those without cooperation from the countries involved. The lack of laws enactment that protect the state from drug smuggling causes the perpetrators to carry out their mode of operation more effectively.

Gaudreault (2013) stated that the Canadian-US border faces the threat of terrorist attacks but the border management has shown progress in terms of travel assurance, more organized economic activities, better and more coordinated staff but there are still some gaps. Among them is due to the length of the border where complete surveillance of the border is impossible. According to him, billions of ringgit have been invested from both governments to improve security, especially after the 9/11 attacks.

Long and Hanafi (2010) studied the management of Palestinian refugees who immigrated to Lebanon by the Lebanese Government. They found that the Lebanese government put these refugees in a special camp and blocked their access to the labor market but still tried to improve the lives of Palestinian refugees in the camp for the purpose of their national security and to limit the movement of refugees in and out of the camp which the Lebanese government believes that ignoring Palestinian refugees will threaten Lebanon's national security more.

Takao et al. (2004) stated that there is Tokai flood disaster occurred in Nagoya City, Japan on September 11 to 12, 2000 when the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in Nagoya City (566.5 mm) resulted in the local river bursting its banks and flooding the city. The results of his study found that flood preparedness depends on home ownership (different preparedness), flood fear, and the amount of damage caused by previous floods. His study revealed that residents' flood risk perception and home ownership do not always contribute to their preparedness to face floods. Then, there is a relationship between the socio-economic factors associated with urban flooding that determine the preparedness of the population.

However, Fan and Huang's (2020) study on the floods that occurred in Japan found that many houses were built in relatively less dangerous locations, proving that the local community has taken certain measures to reduce the level of vulnerability to floods. In addition, a flood hazard map containing information on high flood risk zones for the target area is also provided. This leads to cost saving and increases the financial ability of local Japanese people to deal with flood disasters, especially with the help of the insurance system by the Japanese government. However, they believe that it is not sufficient in terms of human resources for reconstruction. They also found that distance or proximity to the hazard can be an important determinant of the flood risk management strategy taken by companies. They suggest that the Japanese government prepare a new flood vulnerability management framework to reduce vulnerability.

Floods also occur in Indonesia as written by Riyando et al. (2015) which is considered as one of the major natural disasters. According to him, the city of Jakarta in Indonesia has experienced many floods involving the years of 1996, 2002, 2007 and 2013. He is of the view that since there are many areas that are flooded, it is necessary to investigate the effects of other rivers and some other factors that contribute to floods in Jakarta.

The study by Shayovitz and Hasisi (2011) examines the threat to public order that plagues the Arab minority in Israel who are considered to be in opposition. There were two incidents where police used live ammunition against members of Israel's Arab Minority in the October 2000 events (riots/protests originally started by Israeli Arabs as a sign of support for the

Palestinian where threats and demonstrators were seen as challenging the State of Israel) and events Pki'in 2007 (community protests against cellular antennas and these protests are considered a threat). The incident of this protest is seen as battle between the police and Israel's Arab Minority. They said the media played an important role in both of these incidents and the coverage was based on the level of the threat. In this incident, the media reported the events of October 2000 as a macro threat while Pki'in 2007 as a micro threat.

Tumalavicius et al. (2016) stated that in Lithuania, as in other Baltic countries namely Latvia and Estonia, they are faced with public order problems that threaten the safety of the population's environment. This issue of public order is police responsibility. The main problems in police carrying out their duties are the population distrust in the police structure, the lack of human resources and others, the problem of police officers qualifications as well as the gap in cooperation between police and community in dealing with public order issues. Accordingly, they believe it is appropriate to update the legal regulations by creating a continuous work regime and adequate premises for the active participation of a municipality in ensuring public order is maintained. Special attention should also be devoted to improving the management aspects of the organization, especially to promote community awareness and involvement in the process of keeping public order under control.

Wang et al. (2020) stated that the spread of the Covid-19 Pandemic in China and Taiwan occurred just before the Lunar New Year when millions of citizens were expected to go on vacation. Taiwan's measures to deal with this epidemic are through a specific approach to case identification, containment and resource allocation in protecting public health. Taiwan is also leveraging its national health insurance database and integrating it with immigration and customs migration databases to begin the creation of big data for analysis. The Taiwanese government learned from the 2003 SARS experience and established a public health response mechanism to enable rapid action for the next crisis. Additionally, the activation of an emergency management structure involves officers team who are trained and experienced in crises. They stated that the early actions of crisis recognition, daily briefings to the public and delivery of simple health messages by the government could reassure the public with the accurate information regarding the growing epidemic. They concluded that Taiwan is an example of how a society can respond quickly to a crisis and protect the interests of its citizens.

Jennings and M. Perez (2020) states that the US is responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic by focusing on the safety of law enforcement officers and the frontline because they play a vital role in the US where they face a higher risk due to their close relationships with public. Among the measures taken are reassigning personnel to low-level crimes, suspending training, community outreach initiatives, implementing safety precautions for officers, and limiting access to department facilities. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other agencies have also made many recommendations for law enforcement agencies to protect officers and the public. However, the measures taken also have major obstacles for law enforcement, related to communication, resource management, enforcement of public health restrictions, changes to crime and service patterns.

Lai and Rahman (2012) wrote about cyber attacks by China have become aggressive, silent, sophisticated and disruptive. They cited a statement by the Author of the National Cyber Strategy that China's cyber capabilities have become more worrisome and that China has also launched several incidents of cyber reconnaissance and attacks with unknown purposes against various countries. China has always denied cyber attacks were made with government or military involvement. China has advantages in systems warfare and technology as well as competitive advantages in Cyber Warfare. They also stated that the US needs a comprehensive and innovative strategy to counter or prevent future Chinese cyberattacks due to the US also lacks cyber intelligence about China and weaknesses in cyberspace strategic planning.

Turpen (2013) states that the US administration has failed to address nuclear security issues due to the lack of autonomy from the Department of Energy, the government's lack of priority on nuclear issues despite the fact that they pose a critical threat risk and the inability of laboratories to effectively address science, technology and engineering needs. Therefore, the infrastructure for national security technology, engineers and science as well as the commitment of agencies, leadership and administrators need to be strengthened. To overcome the problem, the US Strategic Posture Commission recommended that the departments of Energy, Defense and Homeland Security, as well as the Director of National Intelligence, be given responsibility for improving and investing in laboratories. The Defense Science Board also recommended that nuclear issues be addressed jointly by parties from Energy, Defense, Homeland Security and Intelligence. The National Academy recommends the creation of a National Laboratory Capability Strategy. The Atomic Energy Commission is responsible for promoting the use of nuclear energy and its safety management as well as regulating all military and civilian aspects of nuclear energy. He is of the view that the US Government has made more investments over the years to reorganize its nuclear safety and laboratory facilities because improvements are more economical than the development of new mechanisms or laboratories.

### *3.2 Global Security Management Structure*

Adams (1996) stated that the establishment of the Russian NSC on June 3, 1992 largely used the model from the establishment of the US NSC. He also stated that the establishment of the Russian NSC was influenced by the change in government and the establishment of security and defense institutions. He stated that the purpose of establishing the Russian parliament is to ensure that the president of Russia can manage the country, form domestic and foreign policies as well as defense and security policies, maintain sociopolitical stability in society and protect the rights and freedoms of the people. Vendil (2001) stated that the Russian NSC was formed in an effort to achieve a greater level of coordination in Russia's security policy and has developed into a strong administrative structure. He stated that the Russian political system is similar to the US where the role of the President in making security policy is clearly dominant and the Russian NSC and the US NSC are institutions that specialize in analysis and the preparation of decisions. Thomas (1998) states that the main organization responsible for information security in Russia is Russia NSC.

Then Crabb Jr. and V. Mulcahy (1989) analyzed about the US NSC and stating that the decision by the US NSC is dependent on the political government actor who leads the US NSC. They wrote about the role of 4 implementing actors in US NSC namely administrator, coordinator, counselor and agent. Devanny (2015) then studied about the UK NSC and stated that the UK NSC was established in May, 2010 which became the center for coordinating the development and implementation of the UK's strategy with the aim of establishing a national security system that is guided by two strategic documents, namely the Strategic Defense and Security Review (SDSR) and National Security Strategy (NSS) as well as providing a forum to shape national security initiatives as a whole.

Wang and Yu (2004) stated that Taiwan NSC (Republic of China) was established in 1950 where at the beginning of its establishment, it was known as the Information Division in the Presidential Palace. The Information Division has absolute authority over all intelligence and law enforcement agencies in Taiwan which are considered part of the overall national security community which includes the Secret Bureau of the Ministry of National Defence (MND), the Bureau Investigation of the Interior Ministry, the Taiwan Police Administration, the Military Police Command, Taiwan Security Command, MND Telecommunications Office, and MND Scientific Research Office.

P. Lif (2018) stated that Japan's NSC was established in 2013 which aims to facilitate political consideration and decision-making on national security issues, deeper integration, coordination between agencies across diplomacy, economics, and crisis management as well as the intelligence cycle driven by political demand. Kaynar (2017) stated that the Turkish NSC was established in 1961 through the constitution and maintained the basis of its establishment through the 1982 constitution and reformed its establishment in 2001. The function of the Turkish NSC is to provide information and advise the executive organization, coordinate security laws, combine and coordinate intelligence, producing security policy documents and improving international security relations. Turkey's NSC is the only country that organizes its security council as a paramilitary body and simultaneously places it under executive power.

Medcalf (2017) states that India manages its national security through the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by the Prime Minister. The CCS consists of the Prime Minister and Senior Cabinet Ministers representing defence, domestic and foreign affairs, also finance. The head of the military service is also invited as needed. India's National Security Council is the second element in India's national security structure and rarely convenes. Ali and G. Patman (2019) stated that Pakistan had established the National Security State (NSS) in 1947 when it felt that there was a serious threat to the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity from its neighbour India. Pakistan also sought US support to help counter perceived local threats from India. It can be seen that the government of Pakistan is taking domestic and international strategies for the sake of its national security. They stated that the Pakistani army plays a major role in the implementation of Pakistan's foreign policy and national security when the Pakistani government emphasizes the important role of the national army in dealing with the real external threat from India. However, the Parliamentary system of government was undermined by a number of military dictators who manipulated the political



system in favor of the military establishment in Pakistan. At the same time, military leaders simultaneously held both roles as head of state and head of the armed forces, but civilian officials also played a role and joined hands with the Pakistani military in exercising political control during the Cold War.

### *3.3 Global Security Management Structure Reform*

Babu (2003) stated that India's NSC was established twice, in 1990 and 1999. The difference is that the deputy chairman of the planning commission is now a new NSC member and the second NSC has no representation for the Chief Minister of the State and the function of the second NSC is same as Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs—CCPA). Kaura (2021) states that India NSC has become the most important institution in India as a coordinator of national security issues as well as planning and policy makers in India and provides the necessary forum for overall coordination, especially since 2014.

S. Belyaeva et al. (2019) then stated that the North American reform approach to ensure national interests are formed and systematic is through the creation of the US National Security Strategy document where the content includes issues of strategic planning in securing national interests and its implementation. Then A. Winckler (1984) stated that Taiwan has implemented a strategy of force to softness with domestic political reform that is towards considering the socio-economics of the people for the well-being of domestic politics where previously force was used on the people who controlled the economy so that the people decided to be less involved in politics. E. Smith (2004) states that the expansion of the EU's foreign policy cooperation since 1970 has been achieved through the reform of decentralized institutional mechanisms, which involves processes related to intergovernmental and social constructivist theory. He also stated that it happened due to changes in the institutional context from the aspect of inter-governmental procedures, governmental and supranational routes that influence the tendency to cooperate which links the constitutional process with the development of foreign policy cooperation between EU member states and makes the EU countries adapt their foreign policies. Besides, they are in line with EU foreign policy norms.

K. Connors and Hewison (2008) stated that Thailand's NSC chaired by Prasong Soonsiri was created (originally known as the Council for Democratic) after successfully making the first military coup since 1991, as well as abolishing Thailand's supreme law, the 1997 Constitution. However, martial law was maintained throughout most of the country. In the previous Thailand, the military constitution allowed them to control and monopolize the appointment of the Cabinet and the National Assembly and gave them the ability to choose the Constituent Assembly that drafted the constitution which was criticized by commentators as weakening politics.

Fauzan et al. (2019) states that Indonesia faces various problems in its maritime border area including the threat of cross-border crime and unresolved border agreements with some of its neighboring countries. According to him, there are no integrated institutions to carry out functions and roles to guarantee the security of Indonesia's maritime border where there are

only many institutions that deal with maritime border security with reference to regulations on various individual sectors. He stated that the reform of maritime border security management in Indonesia is necessary given the complexity of border issues that occur.

#### **4. Malaysian National Security Management**

##### *4.1 Internal and External Threats at the Malaysian*

Hussain (2009) states that the racial crisis is an internal threat to the country and the riots that occur because of the crisis are seen as a threat to public order. Rambely and Haniffa (2018) stated that the May 13 tragedy stemmed from racial spirit and dissatisfaction regarding political, racial, and cultural issues and different thoughts between the Malays and Chinese. Rambely in her other writings with Mamat (2017) stated that the lack of continuous communication between generations and the different interpretations by each race in this country of the Constitution, has raised feelings of racism, suspicion and anxiety and the issue of human rights is questioned related to the special position of the Malays as well as creating a feeling of mutual distrust between the Malays and the Chinese leading to various racial slurs.

In addition to the racial crisis, the internal threats that plague Malaysia also involve major floods (natural disasters). Most recently on July 4, 2022, there was a flood in Kupang, Baling Kedah due to continuous heavy rain for more than 3 hours. Members of the Civil Defense Force (CDF) are mobilized to the location to monitor and relocate residents if the situation is found to be dangerous for them (Ramli, 2022). This incident caused the death of a woman and her mother-in-law as well as another member of the victim's family due to drowning where the victim is believed to have drifted away before getting stuck on wood and stones causing the victim to be trapped under a pile of wood found by the Malaysian Fire and Rescue Department (MFRD) (Sabah Gazette, 2022). Major floods often hit the country every year and involve many states not only Kedah, but also states in the Klang Valley, East Coast, Sabah, and Sarawak.

The issue of refugees or illegal immigrants is one of the external threats that plague Malaysia. Malaysia does not allow Rohingya refugees to work legally in Malaysia but does not prevent them from working because of the survival factor of these refugees and to prevent the occurrence of crimes due to the pressure of life. Another external threat facing the country is cross-border smuggling of goods and people. Anuar and Harun (2019) found that the country sees issues such as smuggling and cross-border drug trade that have been considered by Malaysia as one of the important security issues. But according to him, the country's commitment to deal with illegal drug smuggling activities at the Malaysia-Indonesia border has had a negative impact on the country's economy.

Next, other external threats that also hit the country are related to terrorism and new security threats such as the Covid-19 Pandemic and cyber attacks. As for the threat of terrorism, Aziz (2003) stated that terrorist activities in Malaysia began during the post-independence and communist period, but in recent years, it has been replaced by a trend of terrorism that is more relevant at the international level. As for the threat of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the

country and the people in Malaysia have suffered various losses due to the closure of businesses as well as many people experiencing health problems and losing their lives in high numbers. Md Shah et al. (2020) in their study stated that the Covid-19 Pandemic has hit the whole world including Malaysia which originated from Wuhan and was confirmed by the World Health Organization on January 12, 2020. Various initiatives have been taken by the Government to deal with the threat of this epidemic. Yong and Sia (2021) stated that the Covid-19 Pandemic also led to health-related concerns that led to suicidal actions.

For the threat of cyber attacks in Malaysia, Harib et al. (2017) stated that citizens are aware of the risk of cyber attacks, but they do not take action to protect themselves from being attacked. Mat et al. (2020) stated that the incidence of cybercrime in Malaysia is increasing, along with the increase in the use of the internet by all levels of society. Statistics on cyber security incidents released by CSM every year show that most cyber crimes are related to fraud cases committed in cyberspace where the highest cyber crime cases are hacking, spam and malicious code. Cyber crime has become a serious economic concern in Malaysia.

#### *4.2 Security Management Structure at the Malaysian*

To deal with the racial crisis that became a black history for the country on May 13, 1969, Esa and Ationg (2020) stated that National Movement Council (MAGERAN) led by Tun Abdul Razak had succeeded in restoring national peace and trust between races. They stated that Tun Abdul Razak, who was appointed as the Director of MAGERAN, had organized an effort that could be considered an immediate step. Their writing is also supported by scholar Saat (2013) who stated that the emergence of Tun Abdul Razak as the successor of Tunku Abdul Rahman succeeded in becoming the savior of Malay politics. Rambely and Haniffa (2018) later in their study stated that Tun Abdul Razak explained the freedom of speech allowed by Article 10 of the Federal Constitution.

Khairi (2016) stated that the Malaysian Government as the main character in dealing with ethnic conflicts in Malaysia has carried out their responsibilities well. This can be seen through the formulation of policies related to the handling of ethnic conflict problems in Malaysia. The government has also established the Department of National Unity and National Integration (DNUI) to ensure that members of the community can live together and create a community that cares to help and understand each other to live in peace. Noorhashirin H. et al. (2016) stated that there are two agencies in Malaysia namely NSC and NADMA that are responsible for managing “disasters” in collaboration with several other security agencies. Aziz (2003) stated that the Government's initiative to deal with terrorist activities is through NSC Directive No. 18 issued by Malaysia NSC detailing the specific roles and responsibilities of various agencies in managing terrorism.

Anuar and Harun (2019) stated that NSC Malaysia has established NSC Directive No. 4 as one of the border management mechanisms that is not only for the purpose of dealing with the issue of smuggling and illegal trade of goods such as drugs but also other issues such as smuggling and human trafficking where through Ops Benteng, the Malaysian government has succeeded in cracking down on illegal immigrants and related illegals consistently. In an initiative to deal with threats to the security of the Malaysia-Indonesia border, the control by

security agencies including Malaysia NSC is to curb cross-border criminal activities such as the smuggling of prohibited goods such as drugs and firearms as well as human trafficking.

Harun (2009) stated that Malaysia took bilateral cooperation measures as one of the steps to deal with the refugee issue. The researcher observed that the Malaysian state through NSC once placed Vietnamese refugees in one central area which is Pulau Bidong, Terengganu, was proven successfully dealt with when all the refugees were repatriated and resettled in a third country. However, in the case of Rohingya refugees entering Malaysia, the concentration of Rohingya refugees is quite difficult to implement due to Rohingya refugees have been established in Malaysia for a long time and have created a large community in Malaysia and their concentration requires high spending to the country for area development and living expenses as well as the need to deploy many security personnel to control it.

Azlan et al. (2020) stated that to reduce the Covid-19 pandemic, many countries have imposed movement control measures. Malaysians also positively accept the approach taken by the Government to deal with the Covid-19 outbreak. Yeap (2021) stated that the Government has issued various Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in Malaysia where NSC and Ministry of Health (MOH) are the two main agencies responsible for handling this outbreak. He also stated that the Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM) has developed a Joint Common Operating Picture (JCOP) as an effort to monitor and prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) and Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) are assigned to control roadblocks during this pandemic.

Md Shah et al. (2020) stated that among other initiatives of the Malaysian Government to deal with Covid-19 Pandemic is through the enforcement of the Movement Control Order from March 18, 2020, the PRIHATIN package worth RM250 billion and other financial assistance allocated as much as RM20 billion. In addition, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) including prisoners also help from the aspect of providing personal protective equipment to frontline officers. Various organizations also organize fundraising to provide important needs especially to hospitals.

Information security in the context of Malaysia is managed by the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia (MCMC) and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) where it is not under the control of Malaysia NSC. This is different from other countries such as Russia where it is managed by NSC as written by Thomas (1998). However, NSC works closely with MCMC and MCMC on information security issues when needed. Harib et al. (2017) stated that the initiative to deal with cyber threats is through Cyber Security Malaysia (CSM) which has implemented the National Cyber Security Policy where the policy is to strengthen national defence. Malaysia also established the National Cyber Security Agency (NACSA), which is one of the divisions under NSC.

#### *4.3 Security Management Structure Reform at the Malaysian*

There are one work that highlights the proposed reform of NSC into a Ministry, namely

Ahmad et al. (2018) who have proposed the reform of NSC through the formation of the Ministry of Security Management as an approach to reform the actors, structures and processes of Malaysian security management in the post-Cold War era based on sectoral security threats. They believe that the establishment of a dedicated ministry will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of security management in Malaysia. This series of suggestions found that Malaysia still manages its security through the cabinet system and despite the existence of NSC, it does not function as a security management coordinating agency and does not yet have an institutionalized and comprehensive security management structure.

Dhanapal and Sabaruddin (2019) wrote about the influence of domestic politics in the national management system by stating that although the National Security Council Act (NSCA) acts as an advisor in matters related to security, it cannot be denied that the NSCA gives powers that is not confined and enacted like any other common law, and this is unconstitutional and illegal. They also stated that for the first time since 1948, the state of emergency does not exist in Malaysia but the NSCA which was given the power to deal with the state of emergency has been unfair, unnecessary and unconstitutional. According to them too, NSCA is a harsh law that some parties accuse as legislation that threatens democracy. This is due to a number of its provisions that violate human rights. They suggested that the NSCA to be reviewed. Furthermore, they argue there is no denying that there is a need for internal security laws that protect Malaysia from terrorist atrocities. However, the law should strike a balance between the need to protect national security and the protection of human rights.

The NSC (Amendment) Bill 2020 was approved by the “Dewan Rakyat” via authorizing the Agong and on January 12, 2021, which Muhyiddin Yassin, the former Prime Minister of Malaysia declared a State of Emergency for the entire Federation in Malaysia effective from January 11, 2021 until August 1, 2021, with the approval of Agong to deal with the Covid-19 Pandemic. Thus, a thesis study needs to be documented to see the change in the role of NSC in facing contemporary internal and external threats as well as its connection with domestic political influences that lead to the need for NSC reform.

The country of Malaysia has reformed its national security system when faced with new non-military threats. One of the divisions in NSC, the Disaster Management Division, has been made into a single agency with a new name, NADMA, which was established on August 26, 2015 and focuses on disaster management. However, this new security agenda change by NSC is little known to the people. This is proven by the publication of Rahman and Abdullah (2018) which focuses on the role of NSC led by the Prime Minister in the management of national security and as a federal coordination agency responsible for any security operation including “natural disasters” involving various agencies security enforcement in Malaysia.

## **5. Comparative Analysis of Global National Security Management and Malaysia**

The results of the analysis show that security issues or internal and external threats that occur abroad include threats to public order, natural disasters (floods), terrorism, cross-border crimes, refugees, nuclear, cyber attacks and the Covid-19 pandemic which can be handled

well and only some of them are not effective due to inherent weaknesses. All of these security issues and threats also occur in Malaysia except for nuclear, but Malaysia is prepared through preventive measures.

By comparison, the most popular or frequent threats abroad are cross-border crime and terrorism. In Malaysia, terrorist activities only occur on a small scale with low cases. However, cross-border criminal activity is one of the biggest threats and frequently occurs at the country's land and maritime borders, where it is also outlined as a threat in the National Security Policy (NSP) 2021–2025. As for the threat of flood disasters, both the global and Malaysia face it on a large scale. Likewise with the threat of refugees and the Covid-19 Pandemic. The threat of cyber attacks is on a moderate scale because it happens occasionally, but the impact is huge for the country at the global as well as Malaysia.

There are similarities and differences in the national security management structure in abroad NSC and Malaysia NSC. Some abroad NSCs are made up of a majority of military personnel compared to civilians and the role of abroad NSCs also mostly involves defense and foreign issues where in the Malaysian context, military personnel are only in small numbers in NSCs and defense and foreign issues are also handled by other Ministries (different and separate agencies). From the aspect of political involvement, abroad NSC make a political actor as the leader who leads the NSC whereas in Malaysia the leader is from the civil society or the top management of the government but the membership of the council is by politicians. The security issues dealt by abroad NSC are mostly related to the threat of terrorism, cyber, disaster and intelligence, all of which are also dealt by Malaysia NSC. Abroad NSC involves the private sector and the public in the national security management structure and this is slightly different from Malaysia NSC which does not involve the public in national security decisions but there is some cooperation with the private sector.

The researcher sees the role played by Malaysia NSC when compared to abroad NSC is in a good term because it has the advantage of having its own officers and staff who are newly appointed where foreign countries mostly asked hand from other security agencies and Malaysia NSC also has a structure organized in which security issues are not mixed with other issues such as defence and foreign affairs and this allows Malaysia NSC to focus more on dealing with security issues. Malaysia NSC also arranges the position of members in a more systematic way than in other countries, i.e., the council is composed of politicians as monitors and final decision makers, but it is coordinated by members of the government and supported by the military and other security agencies where other countries are mostly led by the military or members which most dominant from politician.

Malaysia NSC also has a security strategy document that includes Acts, Policies, Instructions and SOPs as a guide in managing national security where most abroad NSCs do not have a strategy document, which the existing strategy documents are also not comprehensive. However, a significant weakness in Malaysia NSC is frequency related to discussion meetings that only hold discussions through the NSC session twice a year, compares to the majority of abroad NSCs hold it more often such as once a week, once every two weeks and at least every two months.

Another weakness is from the aspect of information sharing where abroad NSCs are more coordinated between agencies in information sharing but in Malaysian NSCs, information sharing is very limited due to the confidentiality factor where each security agency including the Malaysian NSCs keep their own information and find it difficult to share. This gives the impression of moving in a silo. The involvement of the private sector and the public in the security management in the abroad NSC also shows success where the Malaysian NSC previously did not involve the private sector and the public in national security decisions but began to involve them when Malaysia NSC coordinate the issue of Covid-19 Pandemic and the top management of the NSC in 2021 also stipulates the involvement of all parties in the management of national security. Weaknesses that exist on this comparative analysis can be considered for improvements.

National security management reforms that occur at the global level can be seen in the Indian and Thai NSC where the Indian NSC has been reformed by adding new roles, changing councillors, and adding procedures, while the Thai NSC has been reformed from being run by the military to being run under civilian control. However, both still show weaknesses after the reform that the Indian NSC was too monopolized by politicians while the Thai NSC failed in strengthening its position and was controlled again by the military. When compared to Malaysia NSC, there are proposals by academics to reform NSC into a Ministry and the need to amend the NSC Act, but meanwhile only the proposed amendments to the NSC Act have been implemented.

In addition to NSC reforms, foreign countries are also reforming the national security structure, such as the US reform with the creation of a security strategy document, China's security reform towards focusing on the people's socio-politics (violent actions to softness) and EU reforms in procedural aspects that lead to an increase cooperation between its member countries until successfully influencing members to coordinate their policies according to EU policies. There is a need to reform Indonesia's maritime border security management because there is no integrated institution yet. In Malaysia, there is a reform of NADMA becoming the sole agency in dealing with natural disasters, which used to be one of the divisions in Malaysia NSC. Malaysia NSC has also renewed its security strategy document every five years. The comparison summary of global national security management and Malaysia are as Figure 1 below:

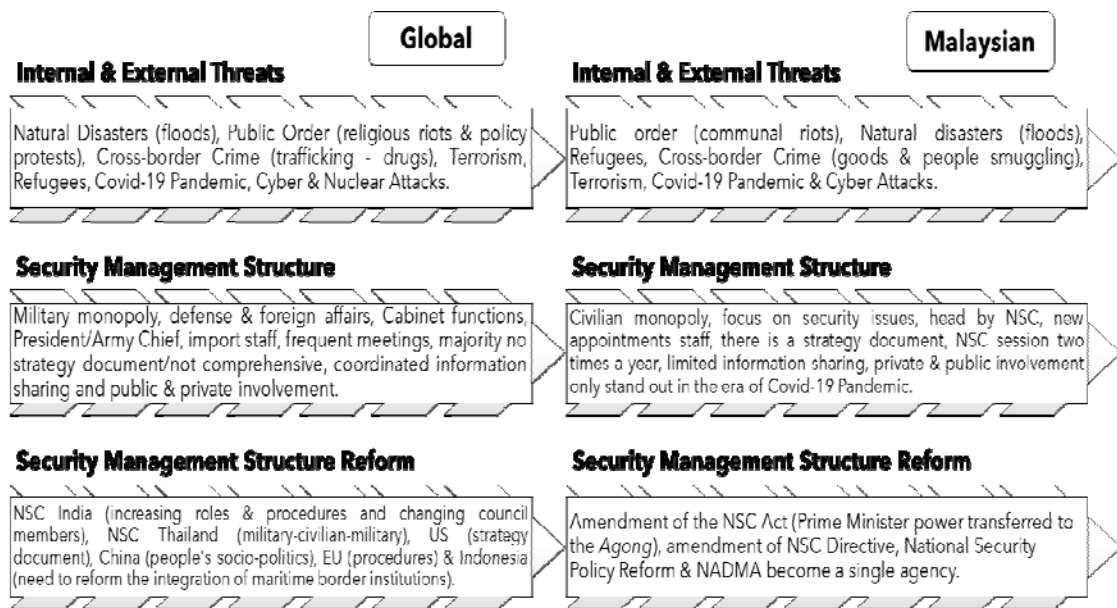


Figure 1. Comparison Diagram of National Security Management from the Global to Malaysia

Source: Prepared by the Researcher.

## 6. Conclusion

The analysis of the national security management structure at the global which is seen to be successful by involving the private and public parties has given the country confidence to more involve these two actors, in line with the goals of Malaysia NSC through NSP 2021–2025 which outlines the need to involve all parties (whole of government and whole of society). In addition, this analysis also provides an initial impression that the national security management structure operated by Malaysia NSC is at a good term and many advantages are identified when compared to abroad NSC.

The establishment of NSC at the global is also to overcome the problem of coordination between agencies where this issue has previously had a negative impact in determining national security decisions, for example Japan's NSC. In Indonesia's maritime border security management, it was also found that the duties of different agencies at the border often overlap and cause conflict due to their respective positions and egos. Therefore, it can be seen that there is a coordination problem between agencies in global security management, where it also occurs in security management in Malaysia.

The study also shows that the reforms implemented at the global still show weaknesses, and some have even returned to the old security management structure, before the reform. However, the post-reform weaknesses at the global that identified are due to political interference. Therefore, this point shows that the factor of political interference also needs to



be analyzed in evaluating the effectiveness of the NSC's role especially if the Malaysian NSC is considering implementing reforms on the national security management structure.

In addition, the analysis also found that the reforms by India NSC have removed the involvement of state leaders, where this has the potential to weaken inter-state coordination. This is evident when the Thai National Assembly, which is also made up of state officials, has reinstated the military power to operate the Thai National Assembly. Analysis of the global literature also mentions that there are state constraints to effectively deal with cross-border crime due to the lack of legislation that protects the state where this causes smugglers able to carry out smuggling more effectively. There are also states that depend on cross-border crime as a source of income which requires central monitoring and coordination so that this matter can be prevented to ensure that the issue of cross-border crime can be fully addressed. Thus, it can be seen that coordination between the state and center is an important factor in determining the direction of national security management.

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### **Authors contributions**

Mohd Ikbal Mohd Huda was responsible for study design and revised it. Siti Sabrina Imji Rahim was responsible for data collection and drafted the manuscript. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript, as well as contributed equally to the study.

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The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data is not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

### Data sharing statement

No additional data is available.

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