

# PARLIAMENT BRIEFING

November 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

VRIENS & PARTNERS

NAVIGATING THE POLITICS OF BUSINESS

SINGAPORE • JAKARTA • HANOI • MANILA • BANGKOK • YANGON • KUALA LUMPUR • PHNOM PENH

# VRIENS & PARTNERS

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# ABOUT US

Vriens & Partners is Southeast Asia's leading government affairs consultancy, with **80 staff** and **30 senior counsellors** across **8 offices** in capitals around the region. We deliver effective government affairs strategies built on trusted relationships with the highest levels of government, and with stakeholders along the entire policymaking chain.

Vriens & Partners is the only government affairs consulting firm with fully staffed offices in key markets across Southeast Asia.



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## SERVICES

### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS STRATEGY

Develop strategies to align client business objectives and government policy goals

### REGULATORY RISK

Identify and assess current and emergent regulatory risks and trends

### ADVOCACY

Conduct or counsel on engagement with key stakeholders in government, media and civil society

### POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE

Illuminate political and commercial power dynamics

# AGENDA

- Recap
- Budget 2021
  - Overview
  - Issues and Challenges
- Political Implications of Budget 2021
- Key political actors
- Q&A

# BUDGET



# RECAP



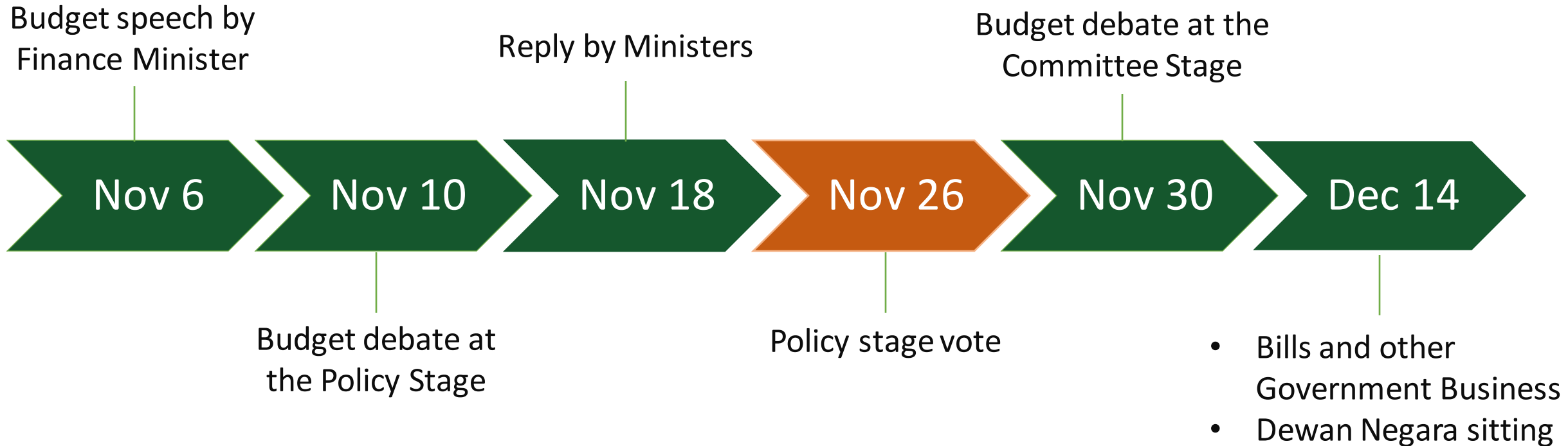
# ROAD TO BUDGET 2021

- COVID-19 and the ongoing third wave
  - Klang Valley replaces Sabah as epicenter of latest wave
  - Targeted lockdowns till year-end?
  - How well has the government handled the pandemic?
- PM Muhyiddin Yassin's position since coming into power
  - Public support waning as COVID-19 cases continue to climb
  - State of the Opposition?



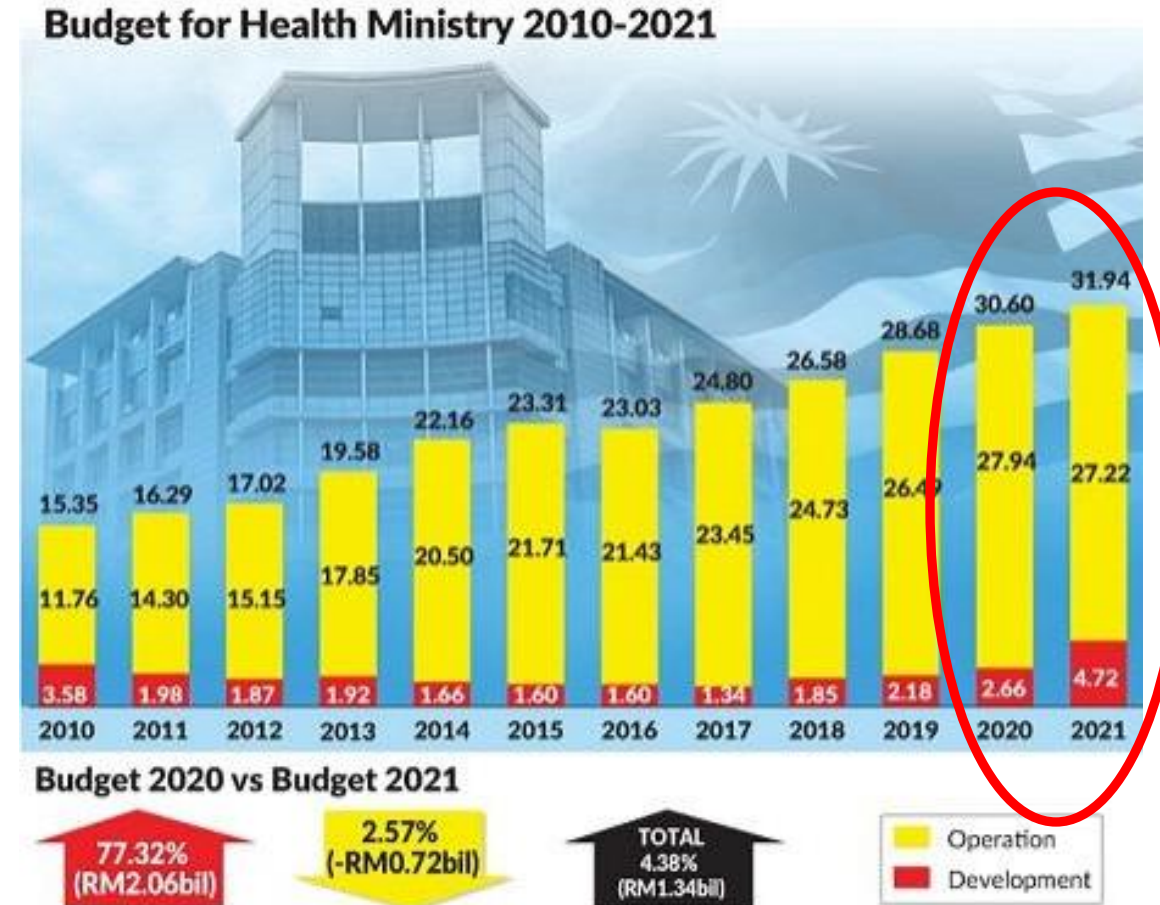
# BUDGET 2021

# OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE



# ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

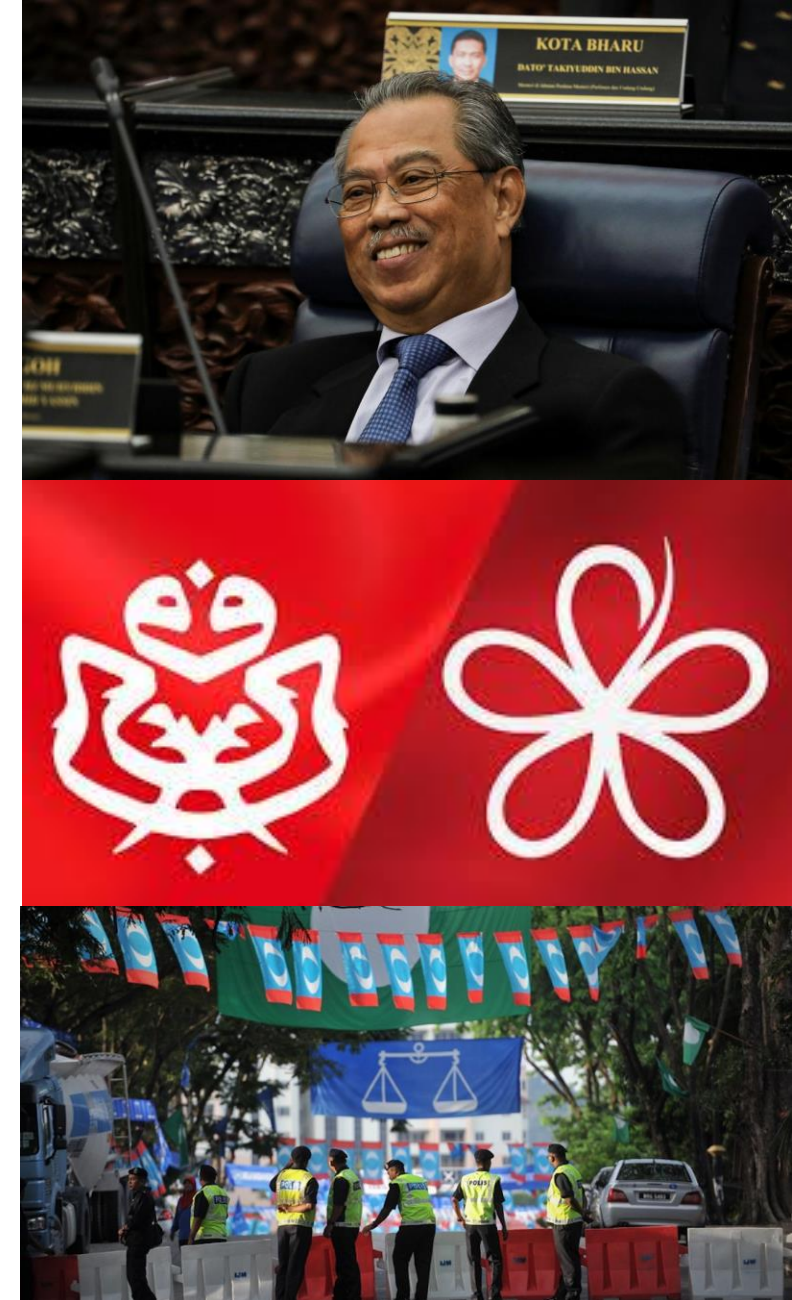
- Uproar and miscommunication over “decline” in allocation to MOH
- Controversial allocation to Special Affairs Department (JASA)
  - Propaganda unit?
  - MYR85.5 million or USD21 million
- Obtaining UMNO and the Opposition’s buy-in: recent statements



# POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

# PASSING OF BUDGET 2021

- Restoring Muhyiddin's legitimacy as Prime Minister
- Breathing space for negotiations with UMNO and allies
- Brief respite, instability remains





# REJECTION OF BUDGET 2021

- PM has lost confidence of Parliament
- Two options:
  - Resign; or
  - Seek dissolution of the house
- Role of YDPA Agong in appointing PM, election unlikely



# KEY POLITICAL ACTORS



# OPPOSITION

Anwar Ibrahim



Shafie Apdal



# UMNO



Mohammad Hassan  
("Tok Mat")



Zahid Hamidi



Tengku Razaleigh  
("Ku Li")

# Q&A

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