

When Hardship becomes Ethnic

Tour 2



Inequality, Boycott Culture
and the **Weaponisation**
of Pain



1 Aug 2026
Saturday



Venue
Perak



Time
2 PM - 6 PM



Dress code
Smart Casual

Infopack

Tour 1 Recap - Where the Road Began

On 4 July 2026, at DoubleTree by Hilton Johor Bahru, Tour 1 opened this conversation with one question:

**Who Profits
from Our
FEAR?**

The objective was simple but uncomfortable: to challenge the idea that racial tension is just misunderstanding, and to show how fear is deliberately built. Because fear wins votes, clicks and attention, so that once people see how it is made, it loses its power over them.

Guests heard **Dato' Dr. Sheikh Hussain Yee** (Founder, Al Khaadem) and **Dato' Haji Kamarudin Abdullah** (Founder & President, IPSI Penang) take the question apart in an open dialogue, moderated by Hilmi Ang & emcee Talhah Darryl Cruz of NMC. Then the floor opened: through the Open Mic, guests of every background stood up, asked, disagreed, and built on each other's thoughts.

Tour 1 left one question hanging in the room: **If fear politics works so well, what is that fear feeding on?** Tour 2 picks up exactly there, moving from the machinery of fear to the fuel beneath it: real hardship and what happens when it is given an ethnic.



When Hardship Becomes Ethnic

The road continues.

In Johor, Tour 1 asked “Who Profits From Our Fear?”. It showed how racial tension is not an accident: fear is built, because fear wins votes, clicks and attention. Tour 2 digs one layer deeper and asks: what is that fear feeding on?

Start with what is real. The rising cost of living. Wages that do not stretch. The worry that hard work no longer guarantees a decent life for your children. That pain is real, and no single community owns it. Every Malaysian household knows some version of it.

The danger begins when that pain is given a race. When hardship is retold as another community's fault, frustration hardens into resentment. Resentment becomes blame. Blame becomes boycotts, hostility and collective punishment. Whole communities carrying the weight of problems no community created.

Follow the chain: hardship becomes resentment, resentment becomes blame, blame becomes division. Once economic pain is told as an ethnic story, every community ends up more insecure and the nation becomes easier to divide.

“When Hardship Becomes Ethnic” puts that chain on the table. Not to deny the pain, the pain is real but to stop it being turned into a weapon. You will leave seeing what most Malaysians sense but rarely say: many fights that look racial are really about hardship, and they only turn destructive when someone frames the pain as an ethnic story. Seeing that clearly is the first step to refusing it.

Where the Road Leads

This tour is the second step of a staged national conversation. Tour 1 exposed how fear is manufactured. Tour 2 exposes the fuel beneath it, real hardship twisted into ethnic blame. The destination is NMCC 2026, the national conference where the whole conversation is gathered, deepened and answered.

If the tours open the wound one layer at a time, the conference is where it is treated. It pulls together everything the road surfaces: how fear is manufactured in our politics, how it spreads on our screens, how real economic hardship gets twisted into racial blame, how one person's wrongdoing becomes a whole community's burden. It turns diagnosis into direction.

At the heart of it stands a community most Malaysians overlook: **Reverts**. People who came to Islam as adults, who have lived on both sides of the racial and cultural divide. That dual perspective makes them rare bridge-builders. NMCC 2026 reframes them not as a group to be supported, but as a national asset for unity.

Our aspiration is a Malaysia that moves beyond mere tolerance, toward genuine trust. A country where difference is not a wall but a doorway. The 2025 conference proved the appetite is real. 2026 is where we turn that appetite into momentum.

This is the road. We invite you to walk it with us.

Open Mic—Let's Talk

When the host opens the floor, anyone can walk up and join the conversation, ask a question, share your experience or respond to what someone just said. No judgment. No "right" way to say it.

You don't need to be an expert, or have a perfect question. A simple, honest thought is often the best in the room. If you can think it, you can say it.

It's a conversation, not a Q&A. You don't have to agree with everything you hear. We keep it warm and respectful: here to understand each other, not to win.

How it works:

- When the floor opens, come to the mic.
- Say your name or stay anonymous.
- Share your thought, then let others build on it.

Feeling nervous? Most people in the room are too. The thought you're holding back might be the one someone else needed to hear.

Come ready to listen as much as to speak. That's where the real conversation begins.

2:00 pm

Arrival of Guests &
Registration

2:30 pm

Opening Screening

2:45 pm

Welcoming Remarks

2:50 pm

**Forum: "When Hardship
Becomes Ethnic"**

3:45 pm

Open Mic Session

4:30 pm

Closing & Group Photo

4:45 pm - 6:00 pm

Dining & Networking

We kindly request all attendees to observe a modest and respectful smart casual attire in line with the dignity of the event.



1.) For Men

- ✓ Slack/chinos or formal trousers
- ✓ Long-sleeved Malaysian batik shirt
- ✓ Collared Shirt
- ✓ Covered shoes
- ✗ NO T-SHIRT

Dress Code

**Baju Kurung or
Modest attire**

We kindly request all attendees to observe a modest and respectful modest attire in line with the dignity of the event.



2.) For Women (including non-Muslim guests)

- ✓ Modest and respectful attire
- ✓ Baju Kurung or Abaya



The first New Muslims Community Conference brought over **400 people** into one room. Community leaders, NGOs, academics, media and corporate Malaysia. It put some of the country's most respected reverts on one stage, including **Dato' Dr. Sheikh Hussain Yee**.

Bridging Two Worlds

Healing One Nation

It started in 2025.

It was carried by 12 media outlets in three languages, from Astro Awani and Free Malaysia Today to Sin Chew Daily, Berita RTM and Sinar Harian. Online, it reached over 10 million people. It was reported not as a religious event, but as part of a national conversation on unity. One thing became clear: Malaysians are ready for an honest talk about who we are to each other.

Now, we take it on the **road**.

Bridging Two Worlds

Healing One Nation

NMCC 2026 is the next step. Before the main conference, we are bringing the conversation to the community, one question at a time. This is the first stop. We start where the trouble starts.

Look at the gap.

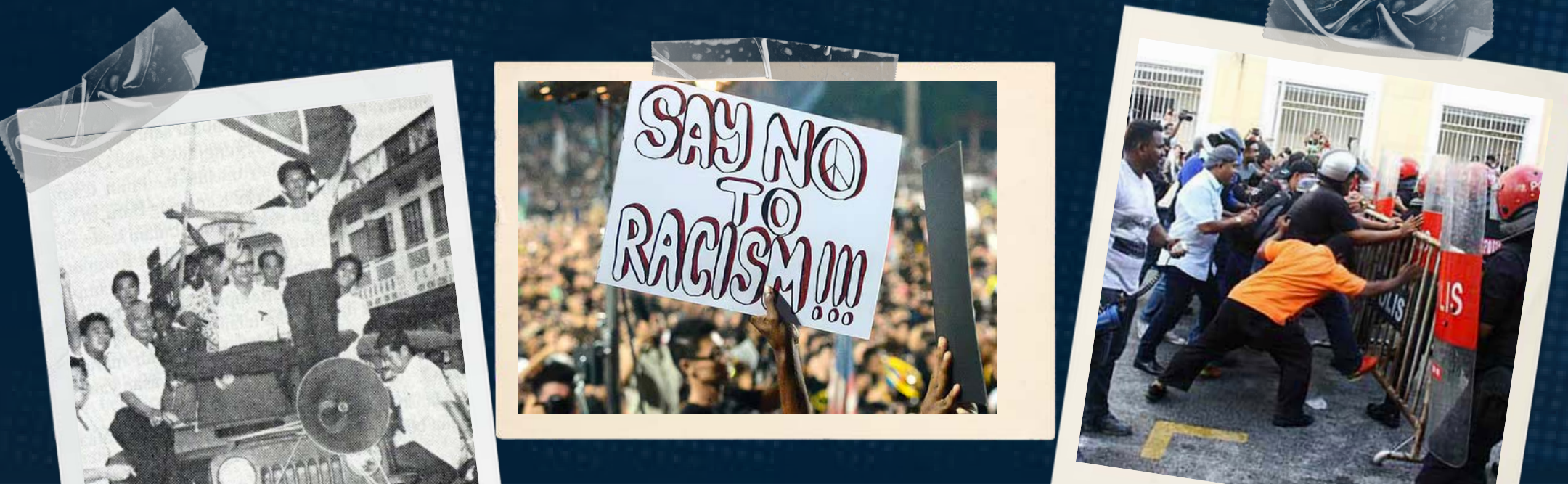
On the street, Malaysians of every race work, study, eat and get along just fine. On our screens and in our politics, the same country looks ready to tear itself apart. **Same people. Two different nations. Why?**

This tour asks the question nobody says out loud: **who actually wins when we're afraid of each other?**



We're told **racial tension** is just
misunderstanding, that we only
need to **know each other better**.

But watch when it flares up. It gets loudest exactly when the political fight gets hottest. The same old issues get dug up, blown up, and turned into a national crisis again and again. That is not an accident. Fear is useful. Fear wins votes, clicks and attention. And the people who profit from it are rarely the ones who pay the price.





Where the road leads



This tour is the opening. The destination is **NMCC 2026**, the national conference where the whole conversation is gathered, deepened and answered. If the tours open the wound one layer at a time, the conference is where it is treated. It pulls together everything the road surfaces: how fear is manufactured in our politics, how it spreads on our screens, how real economic hardship gets twisted into racial blame, how one person's wrongdoing becomes a whole community's burden. It turns diagnosis into direction.

Bridging Two Worlds

Healing One Nation



What we want NMCC 2026 to be

A serious **national platform**, not a slogan. An event courageous enough to name the things that keep Malaysians divided, and disciplined enough to do it without demonising anyone. At the heart of it stands a community most Malaysians overlook: **reverts**. People who came to Islam as adults, who have lived on both sides of the racial and cultural divide.

They understand the concerns of those outside the faith without defensiveness, and they see the community from within. That dual perspective makes them rare bridge-builders. NMCC 2026 reframes them not as a group to be supported, but as a national asset for unity.





Our aspiration is a Malaysia that moves beyond mere tolerance.

Past simply putting up with one another, toward genuine trust. A country where difference is not a wall but a doorway, and where being a bridge-builder is something to aspire to. We cannot get there alone. **NMCC 2026 is built to bring together community leaders, scholars, institutions, the media, and Malaysians of every background and standing.** Everyone with a stake in a nation that holds together. The 2025 conference proved the appetite is real. 2026 is where we turn that appetite into momentum.

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For more info, visit us at

nmcconference.org