

**10**



Webinars

**14**



Infographics

**3**



Podcasts

**50**

Opinion  
Pieces



**2000+**

Online  
Participants



**12**



Policy Briefs/  
Research Papers

**51**



Resource  
Speakers

**1**



Regional  
Conference

**56**

Interviews &  
Citations in Media



**38**



Videos

**100,000+**

reached  
Facebook users



**200,000+**

reached  
Facebook users



# REFSA in 2020

## Highlight In Numbers

Guided by our core progressive values:  
**equality, social justice** and **democracy**,  
our work in 2020 tackles  
the inequalities inherent in the  
**current economic and socio-economic**  
**systems, urban ecosystems** and  
**political institutions** of Malaysia.

Here's a lookback in numbers!



REFSA



InfoREFSA



refsa.org



REFSA - Research for Social Advancement

# REFSA 2020 Highlights

## COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE

Positioning a whole-of-government approach to build back better our society



## OUR RESPONSE

- Address the **short term shocks** through immediate policy actions to prevent the disintegration of the nation's social and economic fabric.
- Advocate for a **long term approach** thinking ahead, chart a policy course that focuses on build back better our society.

## WHAT WE DID

- **15 policy briefs and opinion pieces, 4 webinars** and **14 infographics** challenging orthodox thinking in fighting this “war”.
- Cited in various media, appeared in interviews and participated in open and closed-door engagements.

## IMPACT

- Recommendation for a **“whole-of-society” approach** and the leadership of the National Security Council in the early days of the Covid-19 crisis response was implemented.
- First to respond and highlight the capabilities of the **Armed Forces** on their roles to assist with the lockdown.
- Our insights and analyses were shared widely and informed discussions on the nation's **stimulus packages** announced.



REFSA



InfoREFSA



refsa.org



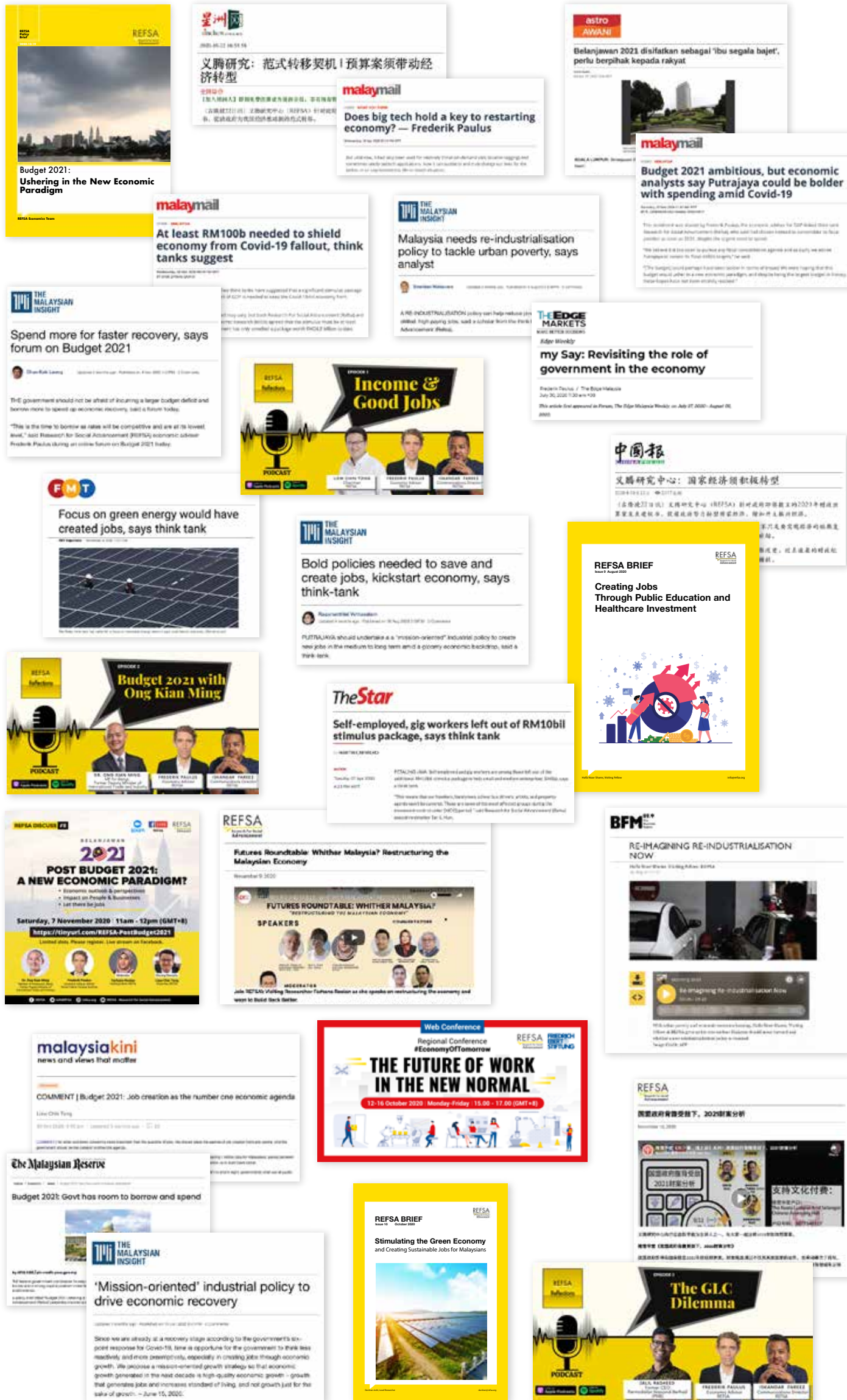
REFSA - Research for Social Advancement



# REFSA 2020 Highlights

## ECONOMIC POLICIES

Advocating for socially inclusive, just and resilient economic institutions



## OUR RESPONSE

- Chart a **new economic paradigm** for sustainable and humanistic economic growth.
- Revisit policies to address **economic insecurity** and promote **economic inclusiveness**.
- Transform the economy through **creation of better jobs**, orient the economy towards a **higher added-value** and **greener future**.

## WHAT WE DID

- **13 policy briefs and opinion pieces, 2 webinars, 3 podcasts** and **published a book** advocating for a great reset to address the many deeper structural problems long neglected in Malaysia.
- **International collaboration** through co-hosting an Asia Regional Conference on the “Economy of Tomorrow”.
- Cited in various media, appeared in interviews and participated in open and closed-door engagements.

## IMPACT

- Provided thought leadership and led discussions on **adoption of a mission-oriented industrial approach**.
- Re-introduced the importance of how **governments can be a catalyst** to propel a resilient and future looking economy.
- Our **Budget 2021 analysis** of the economic and social repercussions it created was widely reported.



REFSA



InfoREFSA



refsa.org



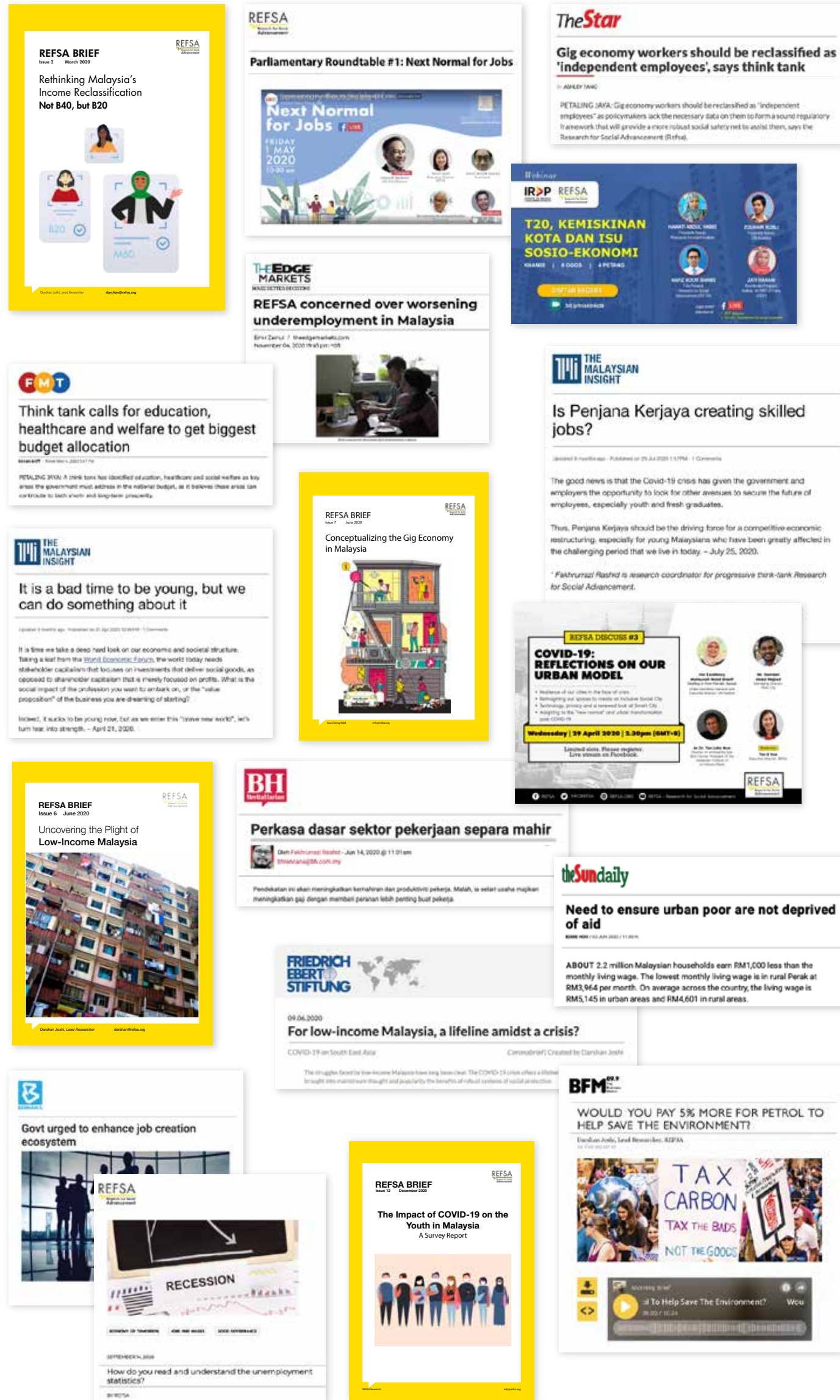
REFSA - Research for Social Advancement



# REFSA 2020 Highlights

## SOCIAL POLICIES

Ensuring a strong and robust social safety net, social mobility and decent wages for all



## OUR RESPONSE

- Highlight the urgency for the nation to enhance our **social security system**, our **housing policies** and our **healthcare service** as a delivery of public good.
- Address **societal issues** like widening income gaps, increased poverty and lack of decent jobs.

## WHAT WE DID

- 11 policy briefs and opinion pieces, 2 webinars, a youth survey and production of numerous videos.
- Cited in various media, appeared in interviews and participated in open and closed-door engagements.

## IMPACT

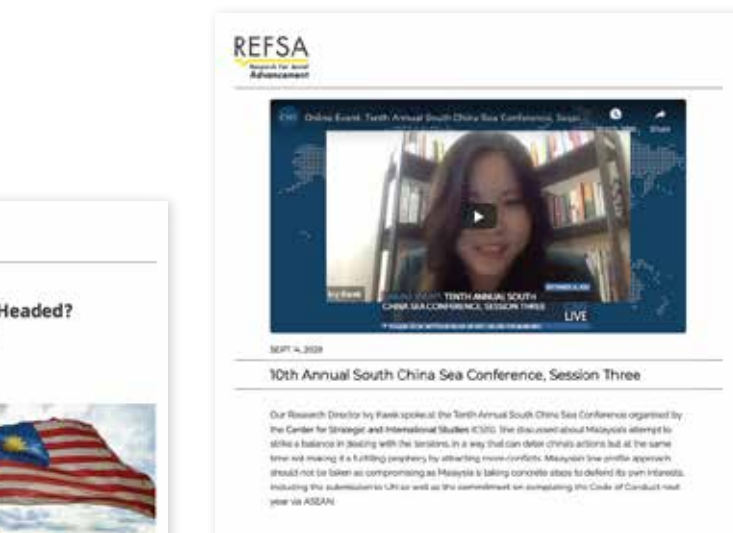
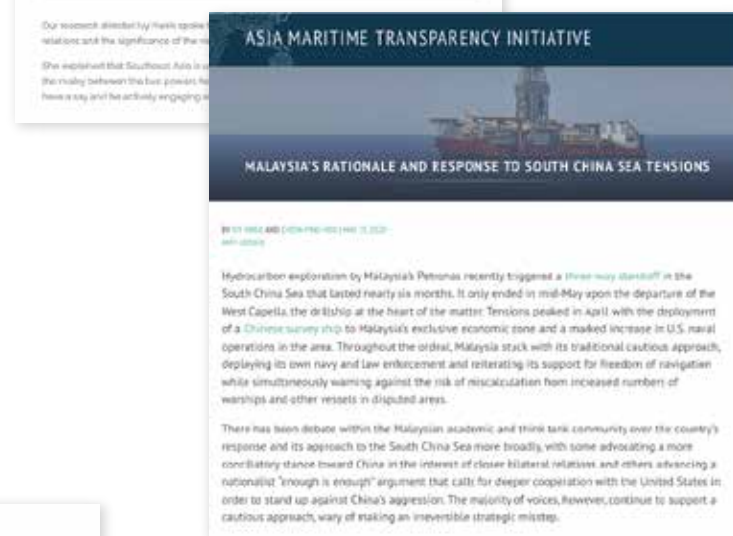
- Amplified the social and economic impact on **youth** and **vulnerable groups**.
- Spotlighted the struggles of the **unemployed** and the **gig workers**.
- Set the stage and framed how **jobs** would look like in the new normal.



# REFSA 2020 Highlights

## SECURITY POLICIES

A renewed focus on national security, regional integration and security sector reform



## OUR RESPONSE

- Raise awareness of the importance of preparing for different forms of security threats such as pandemic, natural disasters and food security.
- Emphasise that **effective inter-agency and regional co-ordination** is crucial in ensuring comprehensive crisis management and response.
- Highlight a **whole-of-society** approach in tackling national security issues.

## WHAT WE DID

- 5 briefs and opinion pieces, 2 webinars. **International collaboration** - co-organised a roundtable with DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance on security sector governance in Malaysia.
- Cited in various media, appeared in interviews and participated in open and closed-door engagements.

## IMPACT

- One of the few think tanks in Malaysia with a **unique angle** of providing forward thinking security related research.
- Publication in various **international journals** and media outlets.
- Made security discussion more **accessible through Project Pertiwi**, an initiative supported by REFSA.



REFSA



InfoREFSA



refsa.org



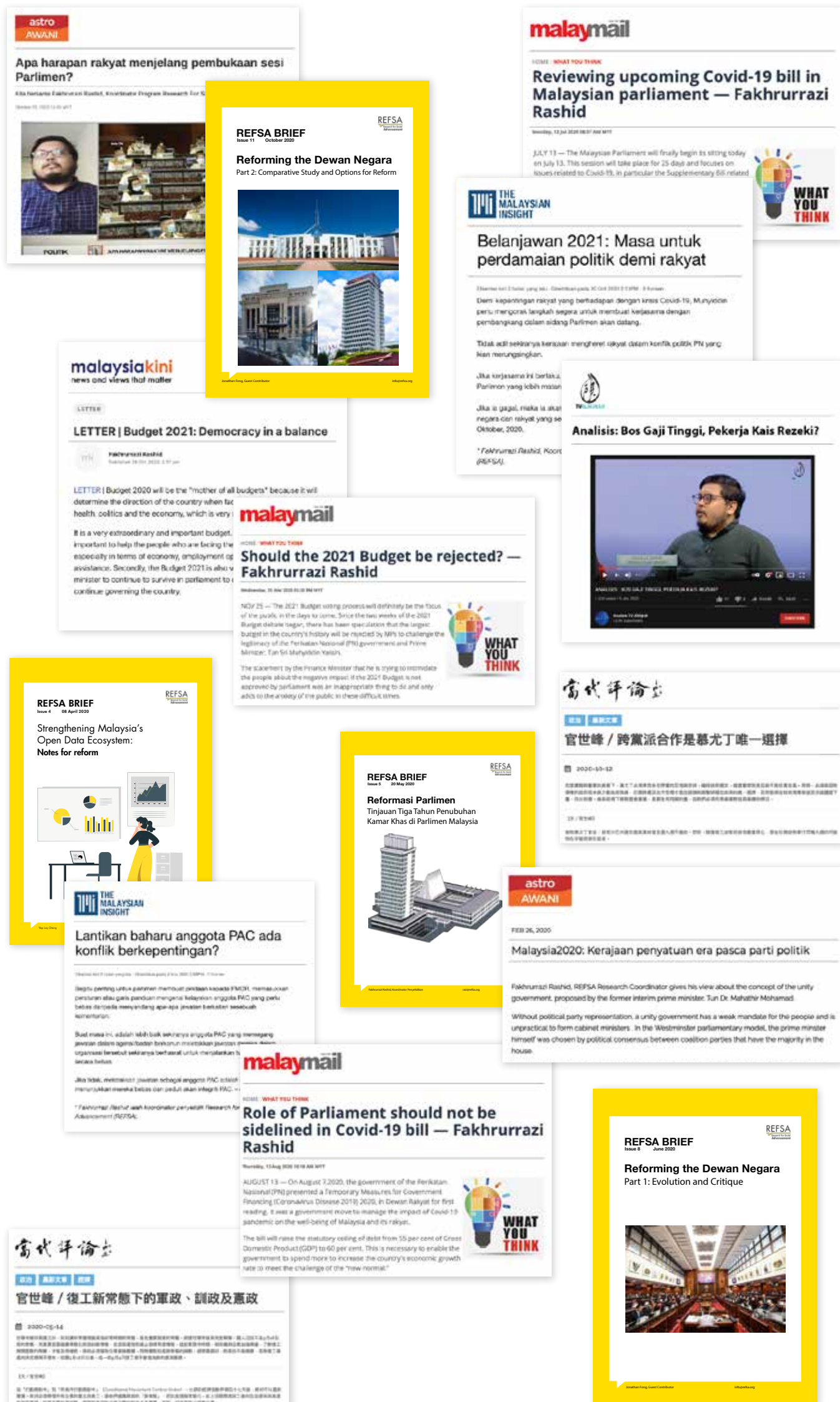
REFSA - Research for Social Advancement



# REFSA 2020 Highlights

## INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

*Building a more responsive, inclusive and efficient government*



## OUR RESPONSE

- Continue the quest for **true democracy and good governance**.
- Advocate implementation of wide-ranging reforms to **rebuild and strengthen our institutions**.

## WHAT WE DID

- 18 briefs and opinion pieces.
- Cited in various media, appeared in interviews and participated in open and closed-door engagements.

## IMPACT

- Continuous advocacy led to the government response of forming a bipartisan committee to address prison overcrowding.
- Led the call with others for an open data ecosystem so the nation can unlock the full potential of utilising public sector data for the benefit of the society.



REFSA



InfoREFSA



refsa.org



REFSA - Research for Social Advancement