



## **PERSATUAN GEREJA-GEREJA DI SARAWAK** (ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES IN SARAWAK)

### **Pastoral Letter for 15<sup>th</sup> General Election in Malaysia**

To Churches, Christians and all people of goodwill in Sarawak & Malaysia.

#### **PRAYING FOR MALAYSIA**

Prayer is our duty as Christians in Malaysia: "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." (1Tim 2:1-2)

#### **VOTING AS A SACRED DUTY FOR CHRISTIANS**

In a democratic government, the freedom to elect leaders through voting is the right of each citizen. To vote means to stand up and be counted. God has entrusted to us this stewardship to work for the common good of everyone.

#### **DISCERNING WHOM TO VOTE**

We are NOT to simply cast our votes blindly or according to a candidate's popularity.

 **Luke 3:10-14** John the Baptist preached against injustice, exploitation, corruption and greed.

 **Exodus 18:16-22** God asked Moses to select leaders with these qualities to govern his people.

Each Christian has to seek to be better informed on the vision of a candidate and respective political parties with these qualities:

- Capable and Competent
- Accountable and Transparent
- Trustworthy and person of Integrity
- God fearing person who seeks to do what is right before God
- Concern about the plight of the poor and those in need "Share with the person who has none and whoever has food is to do likewise." (Lk 3:12)
- Incorruptible and takes no bribe "Collect no more than you are authorised to do." (Lk 3:13)
- Does not take advantage of position to exploit poor & unprotected "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, be content with your wages." (Lk 3:14)
- Does not discriminate based on ethnicity, religion or social status
- Rejects religious fundamentalism and bigotry
- Protects harmony and promote mutual acceptance & respect

Seek the above qualities in our candidates. Each citizen is to vote according to one's conscience before God. **As a religious organisation, ACS does NOT endorse any candidate or any political party.** ACS exhorts church members to seek and elect godly leaders who will ensure the common good of all people of all races, religions and social standing in our nation.

While it is important that we demand such qualities from our political and spiritual leaders, let us remind ourselves of this double edged sword. Christians are called to strive for these qualities as part of our stewardship and leadership in respective families, workplace and position of leadership that have been entrusted to us. May God bless Sarawak.

***" Pray, Discern & Cast your Vote  
according to your conscience before God "***

*From:*

*Archbishop, Bishops, Pastors & ACS Heads*

*Association of Churches in Sarawak*

*31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.*