



Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute  
Dedicated To Creating A Better Society

Event	Malaysian Strategic Financial Outlook Forum
Date	13 March 2019
Section	Nation
Publish	The Star

# 'It's time to say what you have done'

## Maria: Govt must tell rakyat what they have achieved

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**PETALING JAYA:** The government has failed to communicate to the people about what they have accomplished, says Petaling Jaya MP and former Bersih 2.0 chairman Maria Chin Abdullah.

"Nobody knows what they are doing. It does not give confidence to the rakyat that they are doing something. Some of the ministries are working in silos.

"That is why some policies of a certain ministry contradicted with policies from another ministry," she said during a panel discussion at the Malaysian Strategic Financial

Outlook Summit organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli).

The Independent MP said the people wanted an improved lifestyle, better wages and safe streets.

She added that Pakatan Harapan should not be distracted by the race and religious identity politics being played up by the recent Umno-PAS cooperation.

"They (Pakatan leaders) go through lengths to defend or counter that narrative. They have to rise above the race and religious extremist kind of narrative which is

dominating now and bring back the narrative we set before GE14, which is for a better Malaysia for all and to be inclusive.

"We should have kept our focus on what we promised the people in the manifesto," she said.

Fellow panellist Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) strategist Datuk Dr Rais Hussin Mohamed Ariff said that to ensure delivery of its pledges, Pakatan must recalibrate its GE14 manifesto to be reflective of the current landscape.

"This manifesto was laboriously written and must be implemented

because it's what we promised the people. But we must recalibrate it.

"In 2017, the national budget was recalibrated a few times because circumstances and landscapes change.

"Likewise, I believe that the manifesto must be recalibrated to be reflective of the current landscape. Many things we didn't know before like the red files and all that," he added.

The people wanted to see bread and butter issues being solved and the GE14 manifesto fulfilled, instead of outlandish proposals from the government such as flying cars, said Rais.

He also suggested that Pakatan set up a manifesto monitoring committee to track delivery of its pledges to the people.

Rais said he had suggested these ideas during a Pakatan retreat held in Cyberjaya last weekend but would leave it to the leadership to make any announcements.

Bernamea chief executive officer Nurini Kassim also concurred that there is a lack of cohesiveness in the government's storytelling.

"I think the government is looking into it, such as forming a media council," she added.