

## *Barisan Nasional and the Chinese Communist Party: A Case Study in China's Party-Based Diplomacy\**

Ngeow Chow Bing

### **Abstract**

As Malaysia and China have become “comprehensive strategic partners” since 2013, the bilateral relations of these two countries have been getting stronger. However, party-to-party relations between the two countries have not received much scholarly attention. This article discusses the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) interactions with the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition and its main component parties, United Malays National Organization (UMNO) and Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) in Malaysia. It discusses the origins of China's party-based diplomacy, the actual development in this area of diplomacy between Malaysia and China, and the implications of this kind of party-based diplomacy. It suggests that one of the main activities carried out under party-based diplomacy is for CCP to offer its governing lessons to other ruling parties, which has not been discussed much by other analysts of China's party-based diplomacy.

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**Ngeow Chow Bing** is Deputy Director of the Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya. His research interests include China's political reforms and China's relations with ASEAN countries. He has previously published in journals such as *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, and *Contemporary Southeast Asia*. Correspondence should be addressed to ngeow.c@um.edu.my.

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