

MONTHLY BULLETIN



TOTAL REGISTERED

11,538



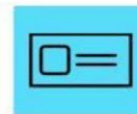
SUBMITTED TO NRD

4,634



ACQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

250



During British Colonial rule, a significant number of Indian Tamils were brought to Malaysia to work in plantations. After Malaysia re-gained independence, this community and their descendants were entitled to acquire Malaysian citizenship under the Federal Constitution.

According to the Federal Constitution, a person is considered to be a national by birth (operation of law) if born in the Federation:

BEFORE MALAYSIA DAY Article 14 (a)

- On or after Merdeka Day and before Oct. 1962
- After Sept. 1962 if at least one parent is either a citizen or a permanent resident, or was not born a citizen of any country

ON OR AFTER MALAYSIA DAY Article 14 (b)

- At least one parent is a citizen or permanent resident at the time of birth;
- Born within the Federation who is not born a citizen of any country.

**Merdeka Day
(31 August 1957)**

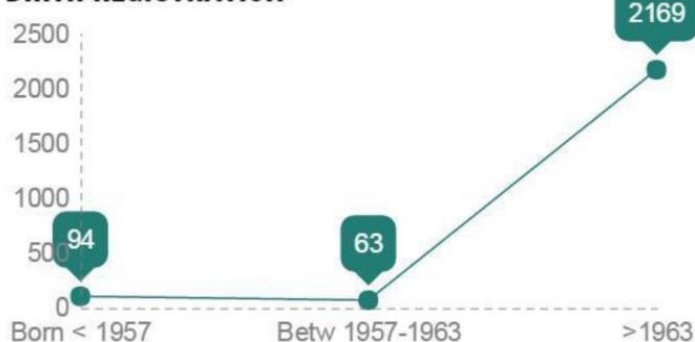
The federation of Malaya became independent

**Malaysia Day
(16 September 1963)**

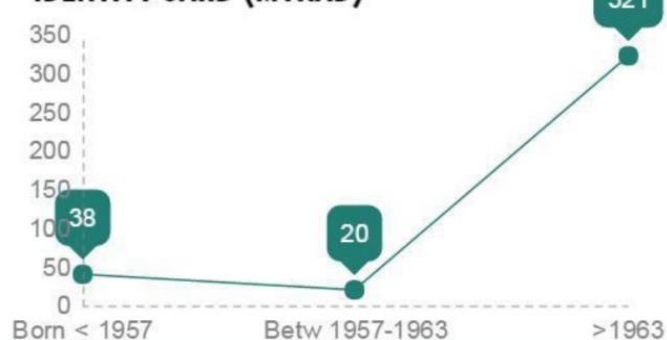
Marks the joining together of Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore

IN NEED OF...*

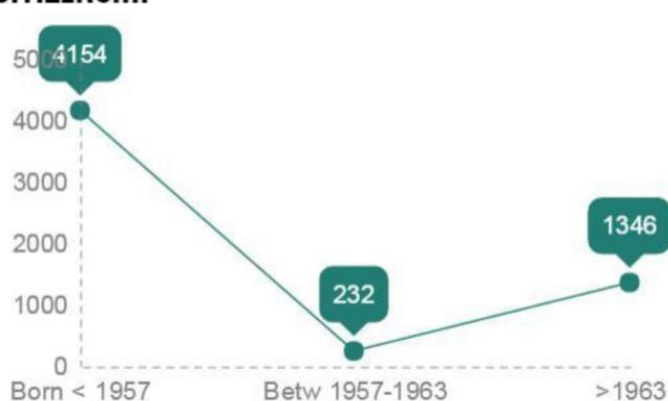
BIRTH REGISTRATION



IDENTITY CARD (MYKAD)



CITIZENSHIP



However many members of the community did not acquire identity documentation mostly because they remained unaware of its importance. Many would have been entitled to acquire citizenship by operation of law under the Federal Constitution but are unable to provide the required documents (such as their parents' marriage or, if deceased, death certificates) to prove that entitlement. In addition, some birth certificates, particularly those issued before 1957, are incomplete and do not include key details such as the identity of the registered individual's parents.

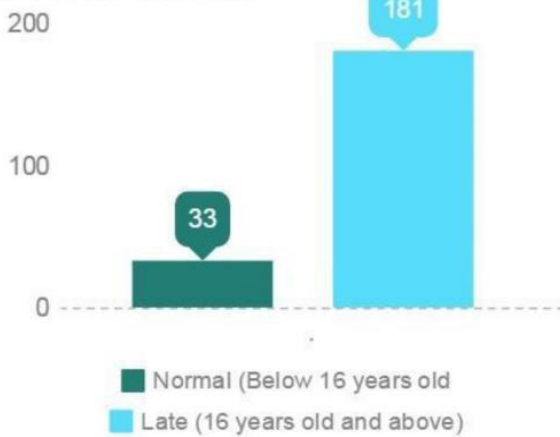
4,798 people registered with DHRRA by 30 November 2015 hold "MyPR" documents indicating that they are permanent residents of Malaysia but that they are not yet considered to be Malaysian citizens. This represents 44% of the total population so far mapped by DHRRA, all of whom were born in Malaysia and have close links to the country.

*Note: The figures presented for the type of applications are based on the electronic records in DHRRA's database as at 30 November excluding the registration records for cases pending data entry.

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT (NRD)*



IDENTIFICATION CARD



CITIZENSHIP



“My PR” holders must generally apply for citizenship by registration or naturalization with the support of DHARRA’s community paralegals. This is usually a long and complicated process, even where the applicant is supported by DHARRA paralegals. A number of social issues faced by the community have created additional challenges, including lack of marriage registration, abandoned children and documentation related to legal and informal adoption. Children and youth who lack documentation confirming their legal identity, including Malaysian citizenship, are particularly badly affected. They can face significant challenges in accessing primary and secondary education, sitting in public exams and in accessing healthcare. Their lack of documentation can limit opportunities in life and be detrimental to community cohesion and well-being. As at 30 November, 291 cases submitted to NRD for confirmation of citizenship held red birth certificates stating their status as “non-citizens” or “undetermined” and 1,141 number of applicants lacked birth registration certificates.

1,141

TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTH REGISTRATION APPLICATION

BIRTH REGISTRATION

