

"WE BELIEVE IN GREATER CITIZEN ACTION. WE SHOULD BE ASKING ABOUT THINGS THAT AFFECT US"



**Edmund Bon**  
**Community Mover**

**Bon started his political awareness work with Loyarburok.com and as an extension of that, he is now advocating UndiMsia!, which seeks to educate youths on their rights. It's an area with a lot of potential minefields and needless to say, Bon has his work cut out for him, but he's not one to back down from a challenge.**

**Tell us about your work with UndiMsia.com**

UndiMsia! was launched in September. We believe in greater citizen action. The democracy that's happening around the world is not working, it's failing citizens. There's too much emphasis on politicians and their personalities. UndiMsia! is a holistic movement that builds on citizen participation, especially from youths who are disinterested and apathetic, to get them to start doing something about their own lives and their own community.

**What are the questions Malaysians should be asking about their rights?**

We should be asking about things that affect us, the first being civil and political rights. Freedom of expression, freedom from torture and police abuse and brutality, freedom of assembly and association. The second are socio economic, which include freedom from hunger. Does everybody have free access to education? Is everybody able to practice their own different cultures?

**How informed are young Malaysians to date, with regards to their rights?**

It's quite poor. We don't even teach the Federal Constitution and the rights under it in the education system. When youths emerge from university, they are disinterested in their rights. We're chasing lost time and if we do not infuse the rights-based model in our education system, we may end up with a Malaysia that looks like a first world country on the surface but with a third class mentality.

**In your opinion, how important is change and are people averse to change?**

It depends on what type of change you want. In any civilization or development of a nation, change is always inevitable but toward what end? How is it achieved and do people accept the change? It's what the people want. The danger starts when we have partisan politics in the country, in which politicians' ideas do not match what is required at the grassroots.

[www.undimsia.com](http://www.undimsia.com)