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**MANAGING CRISIS AND RESPONSE TIMES ANALYSIS:  
EFFECTIVENESS OF ONLINE MONITORING STRATEGY  
ANALYSIS**

Hasmah Zanuddin (a)\*, Nurul Hidayah Watimin (b)

\*Corresponding author

(a) Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, University of Malaya, Malaysia, hasmahz@um.edu.my

(b) Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, University of Malaya, Malaysia

*Abstract*

This study focused on the effectiveness of the Malaysian Royal Police online crisis management and response time taken to neutralise two viral issues in the social media. Plaza Low Yat Racial Riot Incident and Bersih 4.0 Rally were chosen for this study. Content analysis was employed to analyse the sentiment analysis using the Application Programme Interface webtools and SPSS. Independent portal sources, conventional media sources, public opinion sources and sources from monitoring agency were chosen as the independent variables and public opinion was taken as the dependent variable. Results showed correlations and effect among the strategy implemented by the monitoring body towards public opinion in the social media. There were effectiveness in online strategies for the case study of Plaza Low Yat racial riots incident, where results showed the  $\chi^2 = 1135.35$ ,  $df = 4$  was significant at  $p = 0.05$ , reflecting a decreased of negative comments and increased of positive and neutral comments monitoring and deploying online strategies. However, in the case of Bersih 4.0 rally, result showed, the  $\chi^2 = 11:37$ ,  $df = 4$  was significant at  $p = 0.05$  reflecting an increase of negative comments, post online strategies deployment, which resulting in ineffectiveness of online monitoring strategies during crisis. The Plaza Low Yat Racial Riots Incident, showed a significant decrease of negative comments from social media users after monitoring strategy implemented within a shorter time (146 hours) compared to Bersih 4.0 case study (228 hours), which showed a negative response and ineffectiveness of online crisis monitoring strategies.

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**Keywords:** Public Opinion, Viral Issues, Social Media Monitoring, Online Crisis Management Strategies.



## **1. Introduction**

The rapid progress on technology advances especially social media demand the relevant and effective strategy on crisis management and therefore transforming how crisis management professionals and researchers view (Zanuddin & Alyousef 2017). Starting from the emerging of mobile phone and other mobile technologies, computers, Internet access, and digital video equipment its gradually reshaping the network communications framework and the ways we connect to each other (Mudjirin & Zanuddin 2017, Zanuddin & Mudjirin 2017). Referring to the Pew Internet study in 2010, nearly one-third (31%) of online adults are using platforms such as blogs, social networking sites, online video, text messaging and portable digital devices (PEW RESEARCH CENTER 2010; Smith 2010; Veil, Buehner et al. 2011). These new media platforms are low cost or free forums for the expression of ideas, information and opinion; they offer more opportunities to communicate and new avenues for global outreach in crisis communication (Wright & Hinson 2009; Almahallawi & Zanuddin 2017; Zanuddin & Almahallawi 2017).

Community members have always served as integral volunteers in the response and recovery efforts (Quarantelli 2005, Scherp, Schwagereit et al. 2009), social media serves interaction medium for community to response to the actual crisis. There are few cases study that support this fact through one of the social media platform which is Twitter. Twitter was used to quickly share initial information and updates during the 2007 and 2008 California wildfires, 2008 Mumbai massacre, 2009 crash of US Airways Flight 1549, 2010 Haiti earthquake, and 2011 Tunisian uprising (Beaumont 2008; Sutton, Palen et al. 2008, Lenhart & Fox 2009; Robinson 2010; Smith 2010, Ghazi 2011) During the California wildfires, case in point, residents took pictures of the fire and reported their location on Twitter, reporting the fire's movement before journalists could get to the scene (Sutton, Palen et al. 2008). Firsthand reporting by people on the scene possessing nothing more than a cell phone provides almost instantaneous news which then spreads rapidly among peoples' networks of contacts and friends (Stephens & Malone 2009).

## **2. Problem Statement**

New media technology promotes individuals to become sources of information by sharing their opinions, insights, experiences and perspectives with others' (Marken 2007). The social memes of a crisis can reach to millions of people without the intervening presence of journalists. This is due to the simultaneously contributors of information by the consumers of information are thereby building up the user-generated media. Word of mouth news is tremendously influential and even perceived as more trustworthy than mainstream media in some instances (Colley & Collier 2009). Survey indicates that there are organization integrated new media in their organizations' crisis communications plans (Herder & Law 2009).

Managing crisis using online big data is an important research especially for Malaysia. Managing crisis often focused on conventional media. For this particular research, focus was given on big data using online media and social media. Methodology was given a special attention step by step via 5 steps API

(Application Programme Interface) webtool analysis so that a corrected data were analyzed and signifies the novelty for this research.

For this study also, viral issues which involves police investigations as the monitoring agency were selected for the case studies. To maintain and enhance the security and public order, the police force must have the ability to understand the public perception and opinion in order to manage the crisis. Therefore in this study, we employed sentiment analysis via Application Programme Interface (API) web tools, comments on each selected post in Facebook platform had been analysed and the parameters measured are an independent media portal, conventional media (Abdoulaye & Zanuddin 2017, Zanuddin & Abdoulaye 2017), opinion leader and monitoring body agency sources of information. Sentiment polarity namely positive, negative and neutral recorded for further statistical analysis using SPSS version 20 (Ambikapathy & Zanuddin 2017, Zanuddin & Mukhtar 2017).

### **3. Research Question**

Referring to the previous study and current situation, the question to be expounded are: -

Are response times affect the effectiveness of the monitoring strategy by the monitoring agency towards the viral issue in social media?

### **4. Purpose of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to identify the highest sentiment found in the comments of the postings on the viral issue studied, and to revise the relationship between response times towards the effectiveness of monitoring agency strategy on monitoring the viral issue in the social media. This study can assist the monitoring agency such as the Royal Malaysian Police to formulate the suitable strategy depending on situation to ensure monitoring practise on viral issues in the social media can be done more effectively and the negative impact can be minimize in order to sustain the public order and security of the country. Through effective and efficient monitoring practise, unhealthy environment such as threat to the country, rally and riot incitement to stoke racial sentiments can be controlled before the situation becomes uncontrollable.

## **5. Literature Review**

### **5.1. Crisis management strategy**

In general, crisis has been defined by experts as an important event which is/are unexpected and may contribute to the negative impact to the organization. The crisis is the perception. The perception of a person or a group to an event can play a role in determining the occurrence of a crisis. The crisis is the perception of an event that threatens the parties whose involved directly or indirectly (i.e., affected stakeholders), which will give a serious impact on an organization and generate a negative result (Coombs

2014). Organization Crisis management is a systematic and structured approach in addressing the crisis. The audit was conducted as early confirmation before a crisis occurs. Cost effective - does not require a large team to manage crisis, the use of the expertise is only concerned to make the relevant audit. The effectiveness of crisis management improved further by forming a team that can manage or coordinate multiple crises at the same time (Coombs, 2014).

Crisis management is a critical element and very crucial for an organization in managing the crisis with systematic procedure, it is also allows an organizations to detect the problem or potential problem in the early stages of the audit process, the early detection of crisis enables crisis to be prevent or treated effectively, organizations can take advantage of the expertise of the organization to plan and manage the crisis and it is more cost effective because it does not have to involve many officers to form a team (Coombs 2014, Ganjian & Zanuddin 2017, Zanuddin & Alyousef 2017, Zanuddin & Ganjian 2017). Public relations (PR) plays an important role in crisis management. How organizations manage the crisis are linked to the expertise of crisis management such as PR to communicate intelligently with the parties involved (stakeholders) - media, NGOs, victims and families of victims, activists and maintenance. Maintaining the 'relationship' with the stakeholders is essential to make sure that the image, reputation, and the existence of the organization is not compromised due to the weakness of communication and crisis management (Fearn-Banks, 2016).

The goal of the crisis management plan (CMP) is to provide the preparation and to reduce image pollution and reputation of the organization that can occur as a result of the crisis (Coombs, 2014). Crisis management has changed and evolved. At first, crisis management is solely for emergency preparedness [emergency preparedness] (Coombs, 2014). Now, it has been expanded to include four key factors (Coombs 2014):

1. Prevention - the procedure to overcome the crisis, tracking the 'warning signs' and construct the appropriate action.
2. Preparation - this includes, diagnosing crisis weaknesses, selecting crisis management team and the 'spokesperson', (which is able to represent the organization, consisting of the person who have the expertise to overcome the crisis), creating crisis portfolio and many more.
3. Response - create mock crisis, role-playing, as crisis preparation should always be tested
4. Revision - Assessing the organization's response in dealing with the crisis for attempted or real. Revision will strengthen the CMP, improve and learn the weaknesses of the response to make sure CMP response team will be better in the future.

Crisis development is closely related to the development of communication technology, the rapid changes, and also the public opinion. Crisis is not a negative thing, if crisis been managed properly, it can provide the potential to raise the positive reputation and image of the organization. Basically the management of the organization should have, in preparation for the crisis, assess and try out the opportunities that exist in advance, establish a written implementation plan, identify the channels of communication that allows them to communicate with specific audiences before the public lost their

confidence towards the organization (Coombs, 2014). Coombs (2014) suggests several components to see the readiness of the organization to manage the crisis:

1. The response times
2. The information available for the crisis management team on how the organizations manage the crisis those days.
3. The management may seek the crisis management plan, the resources to manage, and the equipment
4. Adequate crisis management strategy
5. Ability to handle media during a crisis
6. The management presumption on the probability of crisis will occur in the organization

Post-audit crisis is aims to identify the lessons learned from the incident that triggered the crisis, learn how to implement these lessons to daily routine of the organization, the main focus of the incident and the readiness of the new organization in handling the crisis (Coombs, 2014). As referred to the pre-crisis, post-crisis will also focus on four factors in auditing the crisis after it happened - the type, the phase, the system and the parties involved. In order to conduct the assessment we need to ask what is the worst situation that can occur to an organization?, What is the probability of the incidents will occur?, Did others facing with the same situation? (Coombs, 2014).

In this study, we will review the effectiveness of the monitoring agency (police) in dealing with the crisis faced by the organization through the impact of social media. Is the monitoring strategy is effective and appropriate to tackle the viral issues in the social media and how they practiced the damage control. Effective monitoring strategy will help the organization to face the threats or the bad impression by the users of the social media.

## **5.2. Public opinion**

According to the Bernard Hennessy (1970) through his book of Public Opinion, he suggested five factors of public opinion which are the existence of an issue. Issues can be described as trending situation that may not be able to compromise, issues require the sense of controversy and conflict of trendy issues. Second factor is the nature of the publics which designate that there should be a known group and an interest in the issue. Third factor is a complex of preferences, and it refer to the variety of opinion by the public on an issue. Fourth factors, voicing of opinion, some of the examples were the words spoken or any printed statement or writing, hand gestures, and last but not least the fifth factor, the number of people involved with the issue.

Public opinion also range from 2 dimension of preference and intensity (Hennessy, 1970). According to Hennesy (1970), preference is divided into support and reject while the intensity is referred as a measures on how far preferences of those reject and support, and there were also some level of public opinion that has been identified and they were dispute level, communication level and evaluation level

(Hennessy, 1970). Social judgment, social condition and feedback were some of the element need to consider for these 3 level.

In this study, only viral issues were selected and the 5 factors presented by Bernard Hennessy (1970) were consider, the 5 factors include the existence of an issue, nature of publics, complex of preferences, opinion and the number of peoples involved in the issue. Apart from that, the level of public opinion also has been assessed for the issue that will be selected to be investigate. The opinion of public was referred as comment is this study. Comment wrote by the social media user on a selected posting for both case study were the sample for analysis.

### **5.3. Sentiment Analysis**

In this research, sentiment analysis is one of the instrument used to test the hypothesis. Sentiment is a feeling and it can be expressed through attitudes, emotions and opinions. Sentiment is subjective perception rather than the fact. Then what does it mean by sentiment analysis. How we do it? According to Liu (2012), sentiment analysis is the computational analysis on people's opinions, sentiments and emotions via entities and attributes that were then expressed in the form of text (Liu 2012). In a simpler definition, sentiment analysis is describe as the study of individual sentiment and also opinion writing (Malakasiotis, Karampatsis et al. 2013). Through sentiment analysis, there are 3 polarities of sentiments (Watimin & Zanuddin 2016, Watimin & Zanuddin 2017) This polarities will be categorized referring to the texts studied (sample) to reveal the opinion expressed by the individual whether it is positive, negative or neutral (Pang & Lee 2004, Pang & Lee 2005, Ambikapathy & Zanuddin 2017, Watimin & Zanuddin 2017, Zanuddin & Ambikapathy 2017).

### **5.4. Virality**

According to Facebook, virality is described as the percentage of people who have created a story from your page postings out of the total number of unique people who have seen it (Allen, Stanton et al., 2013). The activities such as likes, comments, share and other communication on a postings indicate creating a story. The number of communications on a Facebook post include the number of those who have seen the post. Likes, comments, and shares were some of the parameters to calculate PTAT (People Talking about This) metric (Thongmak, 2015). We can also measure the virality rate using engagement rate calculation (Cvijikj & Michahelles, 2013). Engagement rate represent the percentage of people who have responded/acted, clicked, or commented on a posting to the total number of people who had viewed the post. There are several studies that have investigated engagement rate including "Who like to engage?" (Laurens, 2013), "Facebook fans: A fan for life? (Nelson-Field & Taylor, 2012).

### **Hypothesis**

- The negative sentiment is the major comments found in the postings of the viral issues studied (H1).

- Monitoring strategy is effective if the negative sentiment decrease after the monitoring strategy implemented by the monitoring agency (H2).
- The short term monitoring period is more effective than the long term monitoring period (H3)
- There is an association / influence between the strategy implemented by the monitoring agency towards the public opinion in the social media (H4).

## 6. Research Methods

This study was conducted using quantitative content analysis with the support of Application Programme Interface (API) webtools. Samples were collected through Multisampling Techniques consisting of purposive and systematic sampling by using keywords (Cheong and Zanuddin, 2017). On the first stage of sampling through purposive method, 'Low Yat Riot' and 'Bersih 4' keywords were used in the search bar at monitoring agency facebook page. This to extract the list of all the postings from monitoring agency with regards the viral issue studied. Selected posting were then analyze to measure the monitoring agency variable. There monitoring agency facebook page involved were 'Polis Diraja Malaysia' and 'Polis KL'. The systematic sampling was the second stage of sampling, whereby the same keyword used but at this point the keyword were typed at the main search bar on Facebook application. This step is to choose the postings for independent portal online sources, media conventional online sources and opinion leader's sources of information variables. Postings from official conventional media facebook page were the sample for media conventional online variable. Postings from official public figure facebook page were the sample for opinion leader variable. Postings from other facebook page that does not described earlier were the sample for independent portal online variable. Facebook posting is the unit analysis while the comments listed in the postings were the units of measurement. Samples as in comments were then reviewed via API webtools to categorized its distribution base on its polarity of positive, negative and neutral sentiment (Woolley, Limperos et al., 2010).

For Plaza Low Yat racial riots incident case study, a search using 'Low Yat Riot' keywords, listing 14 postings by monitoring agency source while 128 posts were listed for independent portal online, conventional media online and public opinion leaders variables. From the total of 128 postings, only 48 postings manage to hit 2% engagement rate. From these 48 postings, 6 postings with the highest engagement rate were selected for each categories of independent portal online, conventional media online, and opinion leader source of information variables while for monitoring agency variables, 6 postings with the highest engagement rate from the total of 14 postings were selected for the analysis. For Bersih 4.0 Rally case study, a search using Bersih 4 keywords listing 37 posts by the monitoring agency while 147 postings for independent portal online, conventional media online and opinion leaders sources of information variables. From 147 postings, only 52 postings manage to hit the 2% of engagement rate and out of these 52 postings, only 6 postings with the highest engagement rates selected for independent portal

online, conventional media online, and opinion leader sources variables while for monitoring agency, 6 postings with the highest engagement rate were selected from the total of 37 postings.

### **6.1. API web tool analysis**

Through API webtools analysis, we would to clarify the major negative sentiment found in the postings of the viral issues studied (H1), to evaluate the effectiveness of monitoring strategy implemented by the monitoring agency (H2) and the response times effectiveness (H3). There are 5 steps involved in the stage where, firstly, the comments from all selected post were extracted via API Web tools Facebook comments extraction and stored in PHP software (Hypertext Pre-processor) and mySQL database for further analysis. After the comments extraction, the next second step was to detect the language used in the comments. The step were done via API languages detection. Any comments detected in foreign languages will be detected and translated in English via API translation (after data cleaning). The data and translated date were then transferred to the Software PHP (Hypertext Pre-processor) and mySQL data base. The third stage involved data cleaning. In this stage, any comments with tagging, image, video or URL will be isolated. This technique uses PHP completely. The fourth stage is to translate comment in foreign language to English. Translated data were then stored in the PHP and mySQL database.

The final stage is the analysis of the sentiment via API sentiment analysis. The data stored in the database and PHP mySQL used to measure the variables analysed for public opinion. Through this software, comments were assessed and divided into three polarities, namely positive sentiment, negative sentiment and neutral sentiment. The breakdown of each polarity were recorded and transferred to the database and mySQL for further analysis using SPSS version 20 (Zanuddin and Mukhtar, 2017).

### **6.2. SPSS Analysis**

Through SPSS version 20, the association / influence between the strategies implemented by the monitoring agency towards the public opinion in the social media (H4) will be investigated. All the data revealed by the API webtools were used for non-parametric chi-square test at  $p < 0.05$  at  $df = 4$ .

## **7. Findings**

Referring to Table 1 to 4 above we can clearly see that the majority of sentiment found on each post is negative sentiment in which 16 of the 24 posts are posts that have a majority of negative sentiment.



**Table 01.** Distribution of Sentiments for Independent Source of Information (Low Yat).

Independent Portal Postings	Variables Code 1 – Before Riot 2 – After Riot	Monitoring	Public Comments			Total
			Negative	Positive	Neutral	
			Malaysia Viral	1A1	28	
Mega Channelz	1A3	31	18	20	69	
Lowyat-tragedi-	1A4	3	6	18	27	
Friends of PDRM	2A1	224	141	60	425	
Malay Mail Online	2A2	67	23	21	111	
Friends of BN	2A5	929	1016	146	2091	

**Table 02.** Distribution of Sentiments for Opinion Leader Source of Information (Low Yat).

Opinion Leader Postings	Variables Code 1 – Before Riot 2 – After Riot	Monitoring	Public Comments			Total
			Negative	Positive	Neutral	
			Sharnaaz Basir Ahmad	1B1	6	
Kipidap	1B2	51	30	23	104	
Dr Fathul Bari	2B1	70	109	29	208	
Kipidap	2B3	26	28	19	73	
Papagomo Original	2B4	50	45	24	119	
Terasa Kok	2B5	80	27	19	126	

**Table 03.** Distribution of Sentiments for Media Source of Information (Low Yat).

Conventional Media Postings	Variables Code 1 – Before Riot 2 – After Riot	Monitoring	Public Comments			Total
			Negative	Positive	Neutral	
			Harian Metro	1C1	284	
Berita TV3	1C2	5	2	19	26	
Harian Metro	1C4	3857	1456	101	5414	
Harian Metro	1C5	332	235	39	606	
Berita TV3	1C9	9	3	15	27	
Harian Metro	2C17	261	164	55	480	

**Table 04.** Distribution of Sentiments for Monitoring Agency Source of Information (Low Yat).

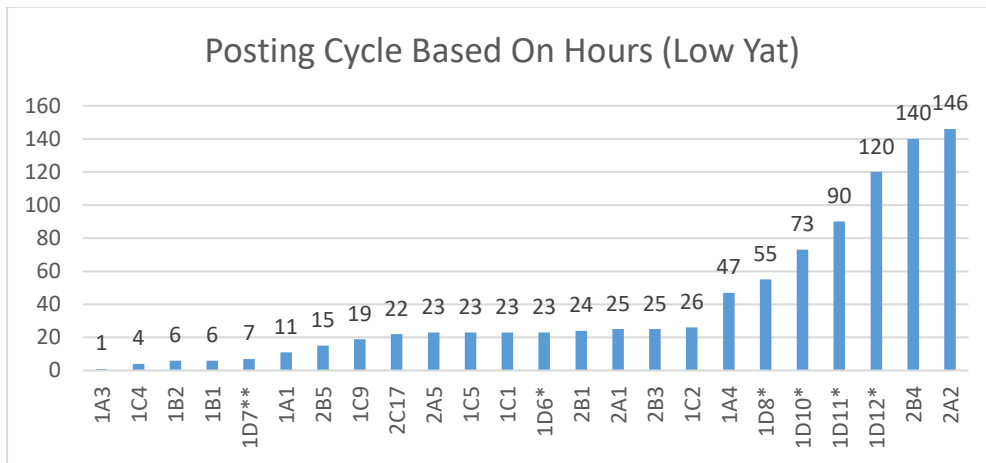
Monitoring Postings	agency	Variables Code 1D7 Mid Point	Monitoring	Public Comments			Total
				Negative	Positive	Neutral	
				Polis KL	1D6	1	
Polis Diraja Malaysia	1D7	854	421	52	1327		
Polis Diraja Malaysia	1D8	137	106	23	266		
Polis Diraja Malaysia	1D10	134	109	20	263		
Polis Diraja Malaysia	1D11	62	39	17	118		
Polis Diraja Malaysia	1D12	113	86	18	217		

Referring to figure 5. The monitoring period starts from 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 at 0312 hours until 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 at 1621 hours. The total hours of monitoring is 146 hours.

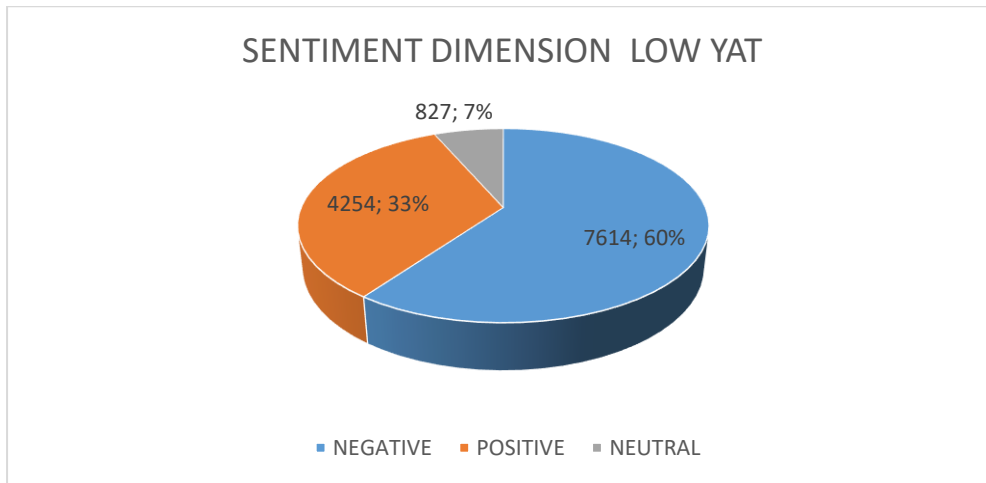
**Table 05.** Date & Time Distribution for All Selected Postings (Low Yat).

ID Postings	Date	Time (hrs)	
1	Malaysia Viral	13/07/2015	0312
2	Mega Channelz	12/07/2015	1428
3	Lowyat-tragedi	14/07/2015	1515
4	Friends of PDRM	13/07/2015	1741
5	The Malay Mail Atas talian	18/07/2015	1854
6	Friends of BN	13/7/2015	1506
7	Sharnaaz Basir Ahmad	12/7/2015	2246
8	Kipidap	12/7/2015	2220
9	Dr. Fathul Bari	13/7/2015	1609
10	Kipidap	13/7/2015	1745
11	Papagomo Original	18/7/2015	1219
12	Terasa Kok	13/7/2015	0756
13	Harian Metro	13/7/2015	1541
14	Berita TV3	13/7/2015	1843
15	Harian Metro	12/7/2015	1810
16	Harian Metro	13/7/2015	1508
17	Berita TV3	13/7/2015	1112
18	Harian Metro	13/7/2015	1405
19	Polis KL	13/7/2015	1556
20	PDRM	12/7/2015	2302
21	PDRM	14/7/2015	2312
22	PDRM	15/7/2015	1732
23	PDRM	16/7/2015	1059
24	PDRM	17/7/2015	1621

Referring to figure 1, the total number of comments for 24 selected posts were 12,695 within 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 to 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, 146 hours total monitoring period. The negative comments show the highest peak among the other sentiments. Figure 2 show the distribution of sentiment polarity and it is clearly stated that the biggest percentage belongs to the negative sentiment (60%). As a conclusion, the negative sentiment is the dominant comments to explain the emotion of the social media users with regards to the case study of Plaza Low Yat Racial Riots Incident.



**Figure 01.** Posting Cycle Based on Hours. (Low Yat)



**Figure 02.** Sentiment Dimension (Low Yat)

Referring to Table 6 to 9 above we can clearly see that the majority of sentiment found on each post is positive sentiment in which 15 of the 24 posts are posts that have a majority of negative sentiment.

**Table 06.** Distribution of sentiments for Independent Source of Information (Bersih 4.0).

Independent Postings	Portal	Variables Monitoring Code	Public Comments			Total
			Negative	Positive	Neutral	
		3 – Before Rally				
		4 – After Rally				
Friends Of BN		3A5	176	196	33	405
Friends Of BN		3A7	67	86	27	180
Friends Of BN		3A8	171	116	21	308
Siakap Keli		4A1	295	320	15	630
Friends Of BN		4A2	373	244	36	653
Bersih 4.0 Malaysia		4A4	5	5	1	11

**Table 07.** Distribution of sentiments for Opinion Leader Source of Information (Bersih 4.0).

Opinion Leader Postings	Variables Monitoring Code 3 – Before Rally 4 – After Rally	Public Comments			Total
		Negative	Positive	Neutral	
		Teresa Kok	3B1	77	
Teresa Kok	3B2	25	26	8	59
Marina Mahathir	3B4	62	70	3	135
Zairil KJ	3B5	32	23	0	55
Tony Pua	4B1	124	71	5	200
Mohamed Azmin Ali	4B2	21	23	1	45

**Table 08.** Distribution of Sentiments for Media Source of Information (Bersih 4.0).

Media Postings	Variables Monitoring Code 3 – Before Rally 4 – After Rally	Public Comments			Total
		Negative	Positive	Neutral	
		Astro Awani	3C1	234	
The Star Online	3C2	25	12	5	42
Astro Awani	3C12	79	128	6	213
The Star Online	3C13	26	30	7	63
Astro Awani	4C2	41	20	4	65
Astro Awani	4C7	195	215	8	418

**Table 09.** Distribution of Sentiments for Monitoring Agency Source of Information (Bersih 4.0).

Monitoring agency Postings	Variables Monitoring Code	Monitoring	Public Comments			Total
			Negative	Positive	Neutral	
Polis Diraja Malaysia	4D2		117	125	8	250
Polis Diraja Malaysia	4D3		175	167	8	350
Polis Diraja Malaysia	4D10		19	20	1	40
Polis Diraja Malaysia	4D13		153	163	12	328
Polis KL	4D36		3	7	0	10
Polis Diraja Malaysia	4D37		117	126	7	250

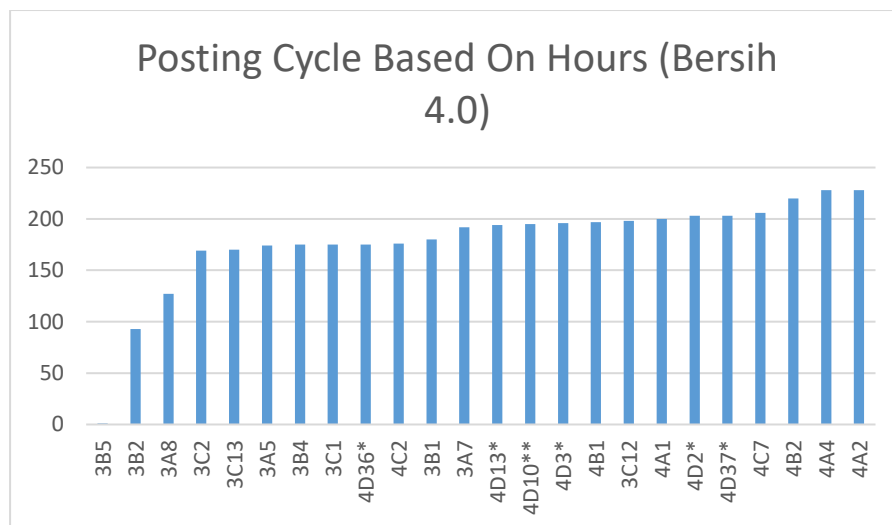
Referring to figure 10. The monitoring period starts from 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 at 1730 hours until 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 at 2203 hours. The total hours of monitoring is 228 hours.

**Table 10.** Date & Time Distribution for All Selected Postings (Bersih 4.0).

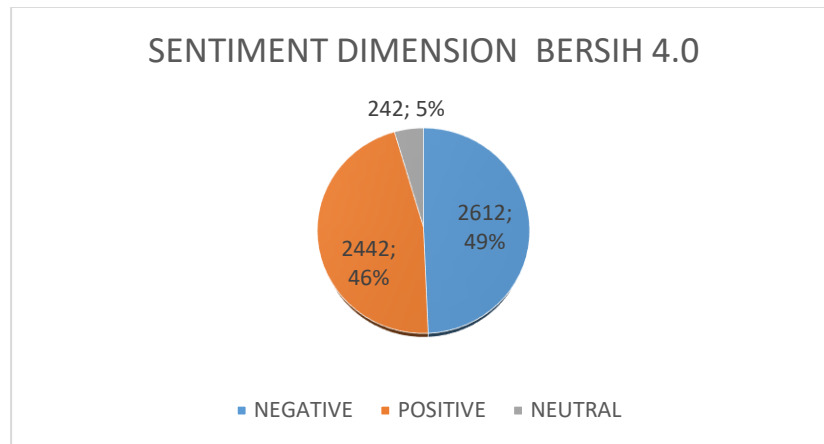
ID Postings	Date	Time (hrs)	
1	Friends of BN	29/8/2015	1730
2	Friends of BN	30/8/2015	1130
3	Friends of BN	27/8/2015	1808
4	Siakap Keli	30/8/2015	1917
5	Friends of BN	31/8/2015	2357
6	Bersih 4.0 Malaysia	31/8/2015	2302
7	Teresa Kok	29/8/2015	2353

8	Teresa Kok	26/8/2015	0843
9	Marina Mahathir	29/8/2015	1819
10	Zairil KJ	22/8/2015	1225
11	Tony Pua	30/8/2015	1640
12	Mohamed Azmin Ali	31/8/2015	1542
13	Astro Awani	29/8/2015	1822
14	The Star Atas talian	29/8/2015	1223
15	Astro Awani	30/8/2015	1738
16	The Star Atas talian	29/8/2015	1341
17	Astro Awani	29/8/2015	1919
18	Astro Awani	31/8/2015	0106
19	PDRM	30/8/2015	2203
20	PDRM	30/8/2015	1558
21	PDRM	30/8/2015	1417
22	PDRM	30/8/2015	1336
23	Polis KL	29/8/2015	1837
24	PDRM	30/8/2015	2203

Referring to figure 3, the total number of comments for 24 selected posts were 5,296 within 22th August 2015 to 31st August 2015, 228 hours total monitoring period. The negative comments show the highest peak among the other sentiments. Figure 4 show the distribution of sentiment polarity and it is clearly stated that the biggest percentage belongs to the negative sentiment (49%). As a conclusion, the negative sentiment is the dominant comments to explain the emotion of the social media users with regards to the case study of Bersih 4.0

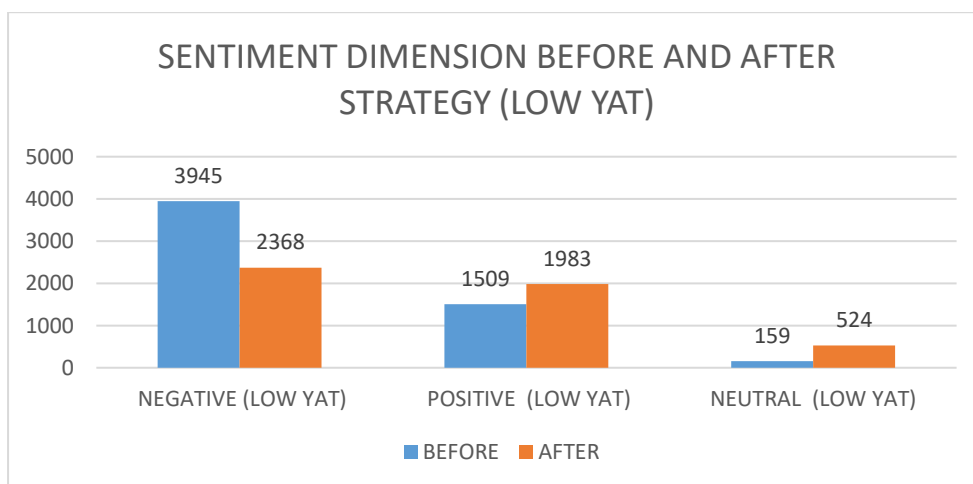


**Figure 03.** Posting Cycle Based on Hours (Bersih 4.0)



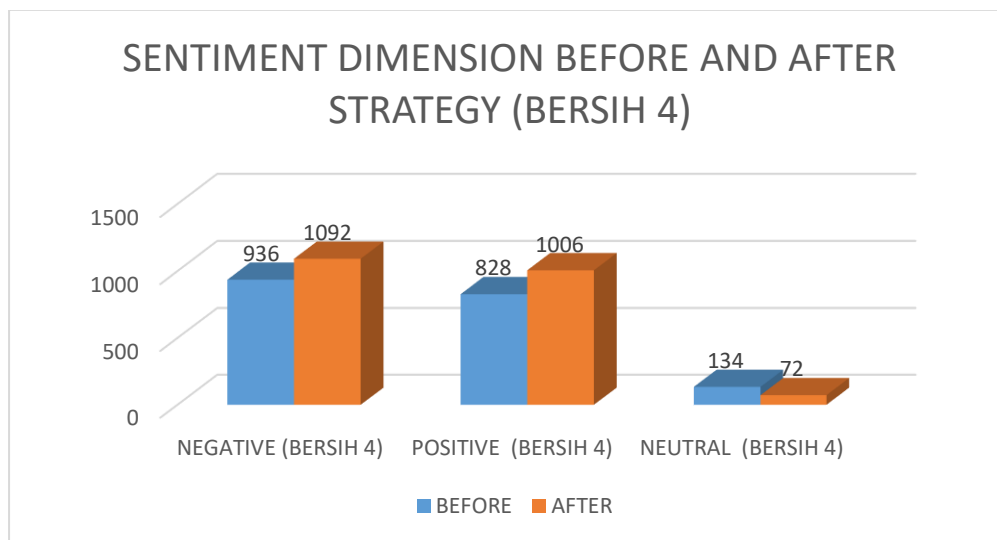
**Figure 04.** Sentiment Dimension (Bersih 4.0)

In this study, a post from the monitoring agency with the highest engagement rate will be selected as the central point of before and after the strategy by monitoring agency. Posts that have the highest engagement rate is referred as the best strategy had been implemented by the monitoring agency which mostly affect social media users to click on the post and placed their comments (public opinion). For the case study of Plaza Low Yat racial riot incident, posting from monitoring agency with highest engagement rate belongs to the post with post id 1D7. The date and the time of the post was published was on 12<sup>th</sup> Of July 2015 at 11.02pm. Therefore, any posts from independent sources, the opinion leader and the media regarding the studied issue before the date and the time of 1D7 posting will be coded as post before strategy of monitoring agency while after date and time of 1D7 posting will be coded as post after monitoring agency strategy.



**Figure 05.** Sentiment Dimensions Distribution Before and After Monitoring Agency’s Strategy for Plaza Low Yat Racial Riots Incident.

Based on the figure 5 above, it was found that the number of negative comments decrease from 3945 to 2368 after the monitoring agency carry out their monitoring strategy by issuing a statement through their official Facebook site. The number of positive and neutral comments also increased from 1509 to 1983 for a positive comments while neutral comments about 159 to 524 comments. Thus, reduction of negative comments and increasing of positive and neutral comments explained that the strategies implemented by the monitoring agency is effective



**Figure 06.** Sentiment Dimensions Distribution Before and After Monitoring Agency's Strategy for Bersih 4.0

In this study, a post from the monitoring agency with the highest engagement rate will be selected as the central point of before and after the strategy by monitoring agency. Posts that have the highest engagement rate is referred as the best strategy had been implemented by the monitoring agency which mostly affect social media users to click on the post and placed their comments (public opinion). For the case study of Bersih 4.0 rally, posting from monitoring agency with highest engagement rate belongs to the post with post id 4D10. The date and the time of the post was published was on 30th August 2015 at 2.17pm. Therefore, any posts from independent sources, the opinion leader and the media regarding the studied issue before the date and the time of 4D10 posting will be coded as post before strategy of monitoring agency while after date and time of 4D10 posting will be coded as post after monitoring agency strategy.

Referring to Figure 6, result shows that there are increase on the negative (936 to 1092) and positive (828 to 1006) comments while decrease on neutral comments (134 to 72) after the strategy implemented by the monitoring agency. Increase in negative comments suggest that, the strategy implemented by the monitoring agency is not efficient

Therefore for both cases the following hypothesis are accepted:

- The negative sentiment is the major comments found in the postings of the viral issues studied (H1)
- Monitoring strategy is effective if the negative sentiment decrease after the monitoring strategy implemented by the monitoring agency (H2)
- The short term monitoring period is more effective than the long term monitoring period (H3)

**Table 11.** Chi-Square Result for Before & After Strategy by Monitoring agency for Plaza Low Yat racial riots incident

CHRONOLOGY		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
<b>Before</b>	Pearson Chi-Square	94.814 <sup>c</sup>	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	88.667	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	33.123	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	4064		
<b>After</b>	Pearson Chi-Square	3721.776 <sup>d</sup>	2	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	2806.313	2	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	2871.047	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	4080		
<b>Total</b>	Pearson Chi-Square	1135.351 <sup>b</sup>	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	1182.646	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	819.195	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	8144		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 13.00.

b. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 14.63.

c. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 14.48.

In this study, a post from the monitoring agency with the highest engagement rate will be selected as the central point of before and after the strategy by monitoring agency. Posts that have the highest engagement rate is referred as the best strategy had been implemented by the monitoring agency which mostly affect social media users to click on the post and placed their comments (public opinion). For the case study of Bersih 4.0 rally, posting from monitoring agency with highest engagement rate belongs to the post with post id 1D7. The date and the time of the post was published was on 12<sup>th</sup> Of July 2015 at 11.02pm. Therefore, any posts from independent sources, the opinion leader and the media regarding the studied issue before the date and the time of 1D7 posting will be coded as post before strategy of monitoring agency while after date and time of 1D7 posting will be coded as post after monitoring agency strategy.

Referring to the table 11, the  $\chi^2 = 1135.35$  was significant at  $p = 0.05$ . The null hypothesis is rejected. This shows that there is an association between all the variables in the study. Hence, the following hypothesis is accepted: -

- There is association / effect among strategy from monitoring agency towards public opinion in social media (H4)



**Table 12.** Chi-Square Result for Before & After Strategy by Monitoring Agency for Bersih 4.0 Rally.

CHRONOLOGY		Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
<b>Before</b>	Pearson Chi-Square	20.087 <sup>c</sup>	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	21.518	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	11.109	1	.001
	N of Valid Cases	2880		
<b>After</b>	Pearson Chi-Square	247.482 <sup>d</sup>	4	.000
	Likelihood Ratio	334.150	4	.000
	Linear-by-Linear Association	212.732	1	.000
	N of Valid Cases	1188		
<b>Total</b>	Pearson Chi-Square	11.367 <sup>b</sup>	4	.023
	Likelihood Ratio	11.589	4	.021
	Linear-by-Linear Association	3.496	1	.062
	N of Valid Cases	4068		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 35.50.

b. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 17.95.

c. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 13.35.

In this study, a post from the monitoring agency with the highest engagement rate will be selected as the central point of before and after the strategy by monitoring agency. Posts that have the highest engagement rate is referred as the best strategy had been implemented by the monitoring agency which mostly affect social media users to click on the post and placed their comments (public opinion). For the case study of Bersih 4.0 rally, posting from monitoring agency with highest engagement rate belongs to the post with post id 4D10. The date and the time of the post was published was on 30th August 2015 at 2.17pm. Therefore, any posts from independent sources, the opinion leader and the media regarding the studied issue before the date and the time of 4D10 posting will be coded as post before strategy of monitoring agency while after date and time of 4D10 posting will be coded as post after monitoring agency strategy.

Referring to the table 12, the  $\chi^2 = 11.37$  was significant at  $p < 0.05$  and  $df=4$ . The null hypothesis is rejected. This shows that there is an association between all the variables in the study. Hence, the following hypothesis is accepted: -

- There is association / effect among strategy from monitoring agency towards public opinion in social media (H4)

## 8. Conclusion

To answer the research question results showed that the response times affect the effectiveness of the monitoring strategy by the monitoring agency whereby shorter monitoring period will contribute to the effectiveness of monitoring strategy.

Referring to the result also we had found that there are correlations and effect among the strategy implemented by the monitoring body towards public opinion in the social media and there were also an effectiveness found in online strategies for the case study of Plaza Low Yat racial riots incident, where results showed the  $\chi^2 = 1135.35$ ,  $df = 4$  was significant at  $p < 0.05$ , reflecting a decreased of negative comments and increased of positive and neutral comments. However, in the case of Bersih 4.0 rally, the result showed, the  $\chi^2 = 11:37$ ,  $df = 4$  was significant at  $p < 0.05$  reflecting an increase of negative comments, post online strategies deployment, which resulting in ineffectiveness of online monitoring strategies during crisis.

The Plaza Low Yat Racial Riots Incident, showed a significant decrease of negative comments from social media users after monitoring strategy implemented within a shorter time (146 hours) compared to Bersih 4.0 case study (228 hours), which showed a negative response and ineffectiveness of online crisis monitoring strategies. Therefore, as the conclusion, the study found that all the tested hypothesis can be accepted whereby the results show that

- *The negative sentiment is the major comments found in the postings of the viral issues studied (H1)*

For both cases studied result showed negative sentiment is the major comments found in the selected posting.

- *Monitoring strategy is effective if the negative sentiment decrease after the monitoring strategy implemented by the monitoring agency (H2)*

The result showed vary in the pattern of negative sentiment counts where decrease pattern found from Racial Riot case study while increase pattern for Bersih 4.0 racial Rally.

- *The short term monitoring period is more effective than the long term monitoring period (H3)*

Both cases study required different duration for monitoring. And therefore the result was also vary where Racial Riot case study require shorter monitoring period of 146 hours and was effective while Bersih 4.0 Racial Rally required 228 hours of monitoring ending up not effectiveness.

- *There is an association / influence between the strategy implemented by the monitoring agency towards the public opinion in the social media (H4)*

Results from non parametric chi-square test showed that there are association / influence between the strategy implemented by the monitoring agency towards the public opinion in the social media at  $p < 0.05$  and  $df = 4$  for both cases.

This research findings proves that the online monitoring strategy were effective in managing crisis. With the emerging of online media, this research successfully fill up the gap on crisis management theory and communication theory via the used of API web tool sentiment analysis to keep track the negativity on an issues before it get out of control. Crisis management plan can be done in the most wise and practical way.

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