

UNVEILING X AS A TOOL OF INFORMATION WARFARE AMONG MALAYSIAN POLITICIAN: A PHENOMENOLOGY APPROACH

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Abstract

Politicians constantly rely on effective communication to convey information and connect with their audiences. Engaging with various issues, topics, and contexts daily, they strive to ensure their messages reach and resonate with their target audiences, particularly potential voters. Social media platforms have become focal points for politicians and their audiences to interact, enabling the effective communication of political agendas to their followers. This study employs a phenomenological approach to investigate why politicians utilize X (formerly known as Twitter) as a tool for information warfare to manifest their political agendas. In-depth interviews were conducted with 15 influential and active Malaysian politicians who extensively use platform X. The interviews were transcribed, interpreted and analysed using NVivo 12 software. Through thematic analysis, the findings reveal that the selection of X as the platform for managing information warfare is seen as strategically substantial, particularly within the political context of Malaysia, based on factors elucidated by political experts. Although X is not the sole communication platform utilized, its ability to swiftly and effectively manifest political agendas makes it a crucial tool for ensuring communication channels effectively convey information and garner support from the target audience.

Keyword : *Information warfare, political agenda, politician, X (Twitter), phenomenology*

1.0 Introduction

The Election Commission of Malaysia reports that the country currently has 822 elected representatives, comprising 222 Members of Parliament (MPs) representing Parliamentary Constituencies and 600 Members of the State Legislative Assembly (ADUN) elected from single-member constituencies during state elections [1]. This total remained consistent throughout the 15th General Election campaign in 2023 and subsequent State Election campaigns across Malaysia, with no alterations due to the absence of re-delineation by the Election Commission. These elections were conducted in phases in accordance with dissolution dates set by administrative authorities and state governments.

With the huge number of professional politician in Malaysia, the impact of the Internet on politics has been profound since its inception, with a focus on how politicians and parties utilize digital platforms. Ahmad et al., (2019) note the significant transformation of the political landscape due to information and communication technologies, including new media and technology that reshape interactions, communication dynamics, and social and political discourse. From basic websites to blogs, the evolution has now incorporated social media platforms, enabling content creation, sharing, and networking.

Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, and X have seen widespread adoption. World political figures, especially former U.S. President Donald Trump, have embraced these platforms, particularly X, as a primary communication channel since 2009. While

Trump isn't the first head of state to extensively use X, Schneiker (2019) argues that he significantly elevated its popularity, making it a prominent channel for communication [4].

TABLE 1
Number of Malaysian Politicians on X

No	Politician	Number of MP/ADUN	With X Account	Without X Account
1	Members of Parliament (MP)	222	180	42
2	State Legislative Assembly Members (ADUN)	600	354	246

Source: Election Commission Malaysia & X, 2022

In Malaysia, as indicated in Table 1.0, most politicians create and maintain X accounts, transcending factors such as gender, political affiliation, academic qualifications, or media literacy levels. Despite the diverse geographical spread of politicians' constituencies across Malaysia, encompassing remote and rural areas, internet coverage does not appear to pose a hindrance.

The increasing popularity of platform X among political elites stands out as a significant trend as social media generated a surge in digital media realm during the 2018 General Election in Malaysia [5], and Masroor et al., (2019) stressed that X emerging as a pivotal tool for garnering public recognition and disseminating political ideologies. Given that X is also circulating around the competition in the digital communication world, cyberspace has emerged as a pivotal arena for military operations, marketing conflicts, and political campaigns [7]. Visibility on platforms like X offers politicians a potent tool to control their political agenda. Antoniadou and Mohr (2020) also argue that no other technology has shaped habits and opinions as rapidly, broadly, and personally as social media. X's ability to connect with large audiences enables politicians to craft their public personas and enhance their reputational performance.

Numerous studies worldwide have explored the reasons why politicians use X as a tool for information media warfare. However, previous researchers recommend that these studies be continuously updated and conducted in line with the progression of time, technological advancements, and the evolving features of platform X itself [8].

This study aims to explore the utilization of platform X (formerly known as Twitter) as a tool for information warfare among Malaysian politicians using a phenomenological approach. Specifically, it seeks to investigate the primary motivations behind politicians' use of platform X to manifest their political agendas. Through in-depth interviews with influential and active Malaysian politicians who extensively utilize platform X, this research aims to uncover key themes and insights into the phenomenon of information warfare in the Malaysian political context.

2.0 Literature Review

The significant advantage of having an X account is its ability to serve as a strategic tool for politicians in the domain of information warfare [9]. This platform enables them to capture attention, effectively communicate their messages, and solidify their political presence [10], [11]. Beyond expressing views on legislative issues or political ideologies, Yildirim & Petrova, (2020) stressed that politicians can use X to share personal aspects of their lives, such as insights into their lifestyles, family dynamics, pets, favourite sports teams, or preferred local restaurants, consequently, X facilitates a comprehensive and dynamic portrayal of politicians, fostering a more relatable and human connection with the public.

Furthermore, in modern political landscapes, social media platforms like X have become essential tools for politicians, media outlets, and advocacy organizations to advance their agendas and engage with political issues [13]. In addition, X's distinctive feature is its capacity to empower politicians to directly shape and influence political discourse among the general population [14]. Although, various studies, including one by Lewandowsky et al., (2020) acknowledge X's influential role, noting that journalists as early as 2012 used it not only to disseminate information but also to

generate articles and capture quotes from politicians. In particular, the multifaceted nature of tweeting extends beyond communication, encompassing validation and engagement with diverse audiences.

X has become a prominent platform for expressing ideas and disseminating opinions, gaining popularity and widespread acceptance in the digital age. Afterwards, as a medium for information warfare, X allows users to articulate thoughts, challenge perspectives, and engage in conversations [16]. For instance, its user-friendly interface and concise format have enhanced its appeal, making it a preferred platform for diverse users participating in public discourse.

In the context of information warfare, X functions not only as a platform for representing emotions but also as a potent tool capable of provoking emotional responses, thereby exerting a significant influence on the dynamics of conflict escalation or de-escalation [17].

The dynamics of information propagation on X are not solely contingent on emotional expression; rather, tweet content assumes a pivotal role in shaping these dynamics. The unique amalgamation of avenues through which information is shared, coupled with the contextual and substantive aspects of the information, significantly captures the attention of users and contributes to its widespread dissemination on the platform [18].

This denotes that X stands out as a dynamic and multifaceted platform, serving as a compelling illustration of the intricate interplay between emotions and the influential power wielded by this social media platform, particularly within the realm of information warfare tactics.

Hence, with the growing influence of social media, X remains pivotal in shaping contemporary communication dynamics [19]. For this reason, many netizens view X as a major stage for opinion formation, where volunteer armies drive opinion surges, support favoured views, and attack opponents in the information battlefield [7], [20], [21].

3.0 Methods

This study adopts a qualitative approach, employing phenomenological methodology through in-depth interviews to delve into the reasons why politicians opt for platform X as a tool for information media warfare to advance their political agendas. Purposive sampling was utilized to select 15 informants who could offer detailed insights crucial for this investigation. The informants were chosen based on specific criteria: i) holding positions as elected Members of Parliament in Malaysia, members of the State Legislative Assembly of Malaysia, or high-ranking members of political party committees; ii) possessing a Twitter (X) account with over 10,000 tweets and 1000 followers; iii) representing either government or opposition blocs; iv) regardless of educational background, length of service, or constituency location; v) regardless of age, race, or gender.

The selection of politicians as informants is paramount due to their pivotal roles in national leadership and politics, being chosen through established constitutional and legal channels or party processes since the nation's independence. Their legitimacy is further endorsed by the Registration of Societies Malaysia, as they advocate for party policies and influence national agendas. A qualitative sample size of 15 individuals proves adequate when sampling from a homogeneous population. Moreover, data saturation was observed during the 10th interview, as no new themes emerged. This phenomenon is attributed to the establishment of robust rapport with participants, fostering natural conversations and enhancing data quality. NVIVO 12 software facilitated the coding process, while thematic analysis was employed to interpret the data. The findings were systematically reviewed to address the study's objectives.

TABLE 2
Informants background in the In-depth Interview Session

Politician Code	Position	Background
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YB1	Member of the Dewan Rakyat	He was a lecturer and later became a significant Minister, shaping lasting policies. Well-known on X for his interactive engagement, he was with a political party until it left the PH government in May 2020 during the ‘Sheraton Move.’
YB2	Member of the Dewan Rakyat	An anti-establishment law lecturer, she resigned in 2013 to run for office, winning a parliamentary seat in GE-14. Known for her vocal stance on legal issues, women’s rights, and higher education, she prioritizes reform over popularity and personal gain, emphasizing her disinterest in monetary wealth.
YB3	Member of the Dewan Negara	A young politician, known for his influential father, is active in state youth NGOs. Despite multiple election defeats, he was appointed as a senator and now leads a government agency for native land and youth interests. He strives to prove his own capabilities despite his father’s reputation.
YB4	Member of the Dewan Rakyat	Rose to prominence in the early 2000s by leading the party’s women’s youth wing. Held various Deputy Minister roles and was a strong candidate for Chief Minister during the State General Election.
YB5	Member of State Assembly	An unexpected leader, rising from an underdog party, now Deputy Minister after overcoming challenges. Emerging as a heavyweight contender, winning by 800 votes in the 15th General Election.
YB6	Member of the Dewan Rakyat	A retired lecturer nominated for PRU15 due to his party’s quota. Prefers low-profile, wise approach, focusing on education to connect with voters. Not seeking fame, aims to serve constituency and party without distractions.
YB7	Party Supreme Council Members	A former Chief of a women’s youth wing of a major party, with a Ph.D. in Urban Management from Shibaura Institute of Technology, now focusing on flood research and climate-related development issues after joining a party led by a former Prime Minister.
YB8	Member of State Assembly	A young elected representative defies the majority choice of her race and origin by joining a different party. Starting as a special officer, she rises to become a candidate for a predominantly Chinese constituency, winning a seat in the State Legislative Assembly. Outgoing with strong convictions, promoting unity across political lines for community welfare.
YB9	Member of State Assembly	A journalist turned politician, won an election by a very slim margin. Despite facing backlash for switching parties, she remains dedicated to serving her constituency, prioritizing their interests over party loyalty.
YB10	Party Supreme Council Members	A politically engaged individual with a legal background, known for advocacy in women’s and family rights, and addressing youth issues. Despite involvement with multiple parties, has not won any contested election seats.
YB11	Member of State Assembly	A young woman with deep knowledge of state politics serves as the Chief Minister’s political secretary. Despite losing a state election to a prominent former Chief Minister, she holds a key role in her party and is viewed as a rising political force in the state.
YB12	Member of State Assembly	A young leader took charge of the party after the previous president stepped down. They won a recent state election, focusing on youth and other important issues despite criticism.

YB13	Member of State Assembly	A politician successfully transitions from State Assembly to Parliament for a party atypical in his community, aiming to challenge perceptions of racism, uphold constitutional values, and maintain special status.
YB14	Member of the Parliament	The first woman to serve as Minister in a key ministry and head the ruling party’s Women’s wing holds a pivotal role in shaping education and women’s issues. With Senate membership and legal expertise, she can craft policies informed by her experience.
YB15	Member of State Assembly	Despite not competing in predominantly Malay areas, connects well with the Malay community due to fluency in the language. With Chinese party experience and loyalty, she consistently receives nominations from top leadership. Dedicated in fostering national unity in Malaysia.

4.0 Results And Discussion

In this study, thematic analysis was used to explore and interpret the informants’ subjective experience. Thematic analysis serves as a qualitative data analysis technique wherein researchers meticulously examine a dataset to identify recurring patterns and themes within the underlying meanings [22].

In addition, this method entails an engaged process of reflexivity, wherein the researcher’s subjective interpretation plays a central role in elucidating the significance of the data [23]–[25]. Kiger & Varpio (2020) advocated for the adoption of Braun and Clarke’s (2006) six-step framework by qualitative researchers to better understand the abundant data gathered from their interviews. That six-step process in thematic analysis employed in this study include: (i) Phase 1: Familiarisation (ii) Phase 2: Coding (iii) Phase 3: Generating Initial Themes (iv) Phase 4: Developing and Reviewing Themes (v) Phase 5: Refining, defining, and naming themes and (vi) Writing the Report.

TABLE 3

Theme Derived From In-Depth Interview With Individual Informants on Harnessing the Power of X to manifest Political Agendas

No.	Themes
1.	Embracing The Trend
2.	Microblogging Element
3.	User’s Character
4.	Educate and inform
5.	Check and Balance
6.	Political Town
7.	Visibility

Based on the thematic analysis employed to analyse the data, findings revealed seven significant theme as above (Table 3).

Embracing the Trend

After the peak of the ‘1998 era’ when the reform movement began to grow in Malaysia, political observers began seeking alternative ways to consume political content, particularly when mainstream media was perceived as biased and controlled by the ruling government [27], [28]. Subsequently, following the 10th Malaysian General Election in November 1999, the government revoked the licenses of three critical magazines; ‘Detik’, ‘Eksklusif’, and ‘Wasilah’. Additionally, ‘Harakah’, the newspaper of the opposition party *Parti Islam SeMalaysia* (PAS), was forced to reduce its publication

frequency from twice weekly to twice monthly. Therefore, these actions heightened local political supporters' interest in digital platforms, then known as new media [27].

As a result of the incidents, the informants acknowledge the importance of exploring and adopting the trend of using various social media platforms. Specifically the platform X, later emerged as a novel and captivating development during a period when smartphone usage was still in its early stages.

"Platform X, or formerly known as Twitter became a popular trend in the late 2000s, so I felt compelled to join as many of my political peers were using it for discussions. I noticed a growing number of politicians, particularly from Peninsular Malaysia, creating X accounts alongside Facebook." (Politician 9)

"X was new at the time, and as a politician, I needed to be active on multiple platforms. I chose X for its active communication, fearing I might miss out otherwise." (Politician 8)

"I had to join X back then to avoid feeling left out and uninformed about community discussions. Even though there wasn't much to share initially, it felt necessary to avoid falling behind!" (Politician 5)

Politicians believe that having an X account expands their communication avenues and offers a distinct platform from others like Facebook. Their enthusiasm to engage with X drives them to register and actively participate as users.

"We began with FB but explore new platforms for communication; they're free and easy, so why not give them a try?" (Politician 3)

"As X gained popularity, there was a strong urge to create an account, haha. We understood the need to diversify from just using FB. It was a time for exploring various platforms." (Politician 15)

The excerpt highlights informants' recognition of the need to explore and embrace new social media platforms, despite not fully grasping their potential as tools for information media warfare. This strategic approach aims to enhance capabilities and reputation management in the evolving digital landscape. Diversifying communication channels expands networks and access to information, facilitating both reception and dissemination. [29].

Microblogging Element

X, a leading microblogging platform, offers users a rapid and convenient way to share concise posts, multimedia content, and interact with others [30], [31]. For example, users can post, retweet, like, and respond to tweets with brief messages, making it a favoured choice for those who enjoy expressing thoughts and sharing images through concise text [32].

In addition, given their hectic schedules, politicians find microblogging, like X, suitable for conveying messages concisely [33]. X's format aligns with their time constraints, making it their preferred choice for brief readings without requiring lengthy engagement. This is validated by informant excerpts.

"X's brevity requires precise communication. Both senders and receivers must skilfully grasp concise yet rich messages to optimize time usage". (Politician 1)

“Tweeting is enjoyable as it allows for short, concise expressions on current issues without the need for lengthy essays. X simplifies the process, enabling direct sharing of opinions and thoughts in a concise manner.” (Politician 13)

Currently, the microblogging feature of X also makes it a popular platform for political discussions among enthusiasts, a notion strengthened by several previous studies [34]. Afterwards, the concise nature of tweets promotes swift and straightforward interactions, creating a vibrant space for political enthusiasts to exchange viewpoints, participate in conversations, and stay abreast of ongoing local and global political events [35].

Nevertheless, at the beginning of the era of X’s existence, the use of Facebook continued to dominate social media users, considering that this platform came with more advanced and diverse features [36], [37] but microblogging, particularly on platforms like X, strive and possesses unique features that distinguish it from other forms of social media. On the other hand, one distinctive characteristic lies in the brevity of content, as tweets are limited to a concise number of characters, encouraging succinct and to-the-point communication.

User’s Character

Different social media platforms often attract distinct user demographics and exhibit unique characteristics, also creating a diverse user base with specific groups of people on each platform [38]. Eventually, the distinctive character, demeanour, and demographics of X users contribute to creating an engaging and adventurous atmosphere on the platform [39].

Informants highlight the characteristics of X users they encounter while managing this platform, including being well-educated, having knowledge about specific issues, being ready to research and delve into raised matters, and having a professional career background. Moreover, the informant also expressed satisfaction in being on X when realizing that the majority of its users are young executives, fresh graduates, and those in higher education institutions.

“I’m on X because of its educated audience who engage in refined discussions and accept arguments thoughtfully. Though not all of my followers share my views, many are knowledgeable and educated.” (Politician 2)

“I see many professionals, politicians, and academics on X, especially the younger generation. It’s important to engage actively with this community to address their concerns.” (Politician 10).

“X primarily attracts users from the affluent M40 and above, up to the T20 groups, shaping the platform’s prevalent thinking. Many in the corporate world use X to observe thought processes and engage in structured discussions. Urban dwellers dominate the platform, possibly using it for career-related networking, which influences their personalities.” (Politician 5).

Informants suggest that X users are often associated with higher intelligence, advanced education, and urban residence [39]. However, it’s important to note that these traits do not imply superiority over individuals with different backgrounds. Each group brings unique perspectives and valuable contributions to social discourse. Some informants acknowledge negative aspects of X, addressing issues like mischievous behaviour among users [40].

Hence, the diversity of user characters on this platform from all angles brings an intriguing paradigm and is something that is positively embraced by informants, subsequently giving them a different sensation to get to know the diverse voters more closely.

Educate and Inform

To strengthen their leadership, politicians often engage in and observe political discourse, typically based on credible evidence. Similarly, political discussions grounded in accurate sentiment, robust

data, and clear evidence are critical pillars of democracy and are at the core of ensuring free and fair elections, providing opportunities to win contested seats [41].

For this reason, some informants perceive an added responsibility beyond their political duties, seeing themselves as educators and advocates for voters via X. They view X as an effective platform for delivering education and guidance on various issues, contributing to national policy formulation [42]. Consequently, this reflects their belief in using social media not only for political communication but also for public enlightenment and discussion, as evidenced by informant excerpts.

“I enjoy sharing stories, especially community ones. Not everyone can relate, but many find them impressive and take away moral lessons, even if they’re not directly involved” (Politician 8).

“Sometimes, if I don’t have time to write a lengthy caption or anything, I just put up a banner image or the program’s bunting, then we include pictures of the program. The important thing is to have many pictures with the people; they enjoy it when we feature them. They can share and retweet, and people feel a bit proud when they see it.” (Politician 3)

“X for me is now an educational platform where I focus on sharing ideas related to law, litigation, professional tasks, political activities, and NGO work”. (Politician 6)

As a result, informants are very optimistic about positioning themselves as individuals responsible for educating through X. Words like educating, explaining, providing clarification, and even using X as a platform to express emotions or just random thoughts ultimately become a source of learning and guidance for followers. This can be associated with the subtlety of psychological warfare methods, which may not always be visible or overt but can penetrate the mind [43].

Check and Balance

Currently, X stands out as a favoured arena for engaging in political discussions as emphasized by Mangerotti et al., (2021), the cumulative evidence from his studies underscores the enduring influence of X as a prominent medium for political dialogue and discourse. Additionally, it serves as a platform for checking and balancing utilized by informants.

Therefore, to ensure that the information shared or disseminated is true and accurate, it is important for a politician to verify those facts especially those involving current events. Likewise, the nature of X, which supports citizen journalism, also contributes to the reason why informants use X to check and verify incidents or situations that occur [45].

“I rely on X like a one-stop news centre, especially for breaking news. It’s the quickest and easiest way for me to stay informed about various situations due to the rapid spread of information on the platform.” (Politician 4)

“I depend on X as my go-to news hub, particularly for breaking news. It offers the fastest and simplest way for me to stay updated on various events thanks to its rapid information dissemination.” (Politician 7)

Part of using X is to check the information, it is crucial for any politicians to read and monitor political sentiment as this platform serves as a real-time gauge of public opinions, concerns, and trends, allowing them to stay informed about the evolving sentiments of the electorate and strategically tailor their communication and policies accordingly.

“X offers direct and objective insights, including sentiments due to its strong political vibe. I use it to stay updated on politics, trends, and current news, and to gauge public opinion on local issues and party matters.” - (Politician 14)

Informants confirm that they not only need to be meticulous and cautious in conveying information but must also exercise caution when expressing approval or inclinations. On the Twitter platform, this can be achieved through actions such as replying to tweets, retweeting, or liking, all of which can serve as indicators of their reputation if not done with full awareness [46].

The competitive nature arises from the realization that X is not just a space for communication but an active arena where politicians vie for information through the strategic use of information and media warfare tools.

Political Town

X serves as a pivotal platform fostering the creation of networks among individuals who align with shared political beliefs. Masroor et al., (2019) stressed that it is functioning as a virtual town square where like-minded people connect, engage, and collectively contribute to political discourse.

Many politicians find their presence on X particularly fulfilling, being part of a community that shares similar interests. Elon Musk, the founder of X, once envisioned the platform as a 'Digital Town Square,' emphasizing its role in facilitating public discourse and engagement [47]. In other words, the X's user base and digital environment closely match their own demographics and preferences, fostering a stronger sense of connection and relatability while navigating the platform.

"It's undeniable that political engagement is more accessible on X. The platform is teeming with Political Cybertroopers, along with plenty of 'Political Animals'—those deeply interested in politics and current affairs." (Politician 12)

"We have jointly organized political demonstrations, so many times.. we organize together with you know any of NGOs, we will be 100% focused on X because here, there are many political enthusiasts and observers." (Politician 7)

Research findings uncovered an intriguing political landscape, revealing that adult X users in the U.S. present a unique profile characterized by of course a younger age group and a more pronounced alignment with Democratic affiliations compared to the wider demographic spectrum [38]. This dynamic insight sheds light on the nuanced political tapestry within the Xverse, emphasizing the platform's role as a hub for diverse perspectives and the vocal expression of democratic sentiments among its user base.

Visibility

Ever since the inception of various social media platforms like Facebook, X, Instagram, and TikTok, politicians have expanded their online presence to connect with a broader audience of potential supporters and stay engaged with constituents and X has become one of the most frequent applications used and they also have ventured into this in order to interact and get closer to the voters [48].

Afterwards, this phenomenon plays an important role in changing the public perception towards the credibility of political leaders [49]. For politicians, the essence of visibility is paramount, casting a radiant glow upon their presence and forging a pathway of accessibility to the public.

Within the dynamic realm of X's political arena, visibility stands as the linchpin, an artful catalyst that not only magnifies their influence but intricately weaves the threads of connection with the broader public [50].

"As a politician, if we want to engage with the public, we cannot choose just one platform. This is not an attempt to segregate based on ethnicity or language, but rather separated by individual habits and lifestyles. So, we politicians need to be on all platforms to engage with the public to ensure that we are always present in their circles." (Politician 15)

“I really need exposure and need to be known. Just as we want to be recognized in mainstream media, we need to move through social media platforms like X so that media colleagues can be aware of our presence in the political arena. Our frequency on this platform helps us stand out more.” (Politician 11)

Whether through traditional media or social platforms like X, increased visibility contributes to political influence, credibility, and the ability to effectively convey messages to a wider audience. The informant stressed that it’s a strategic imperative for politicians to maintain a visible profile to remain relevant and engaged in the political landscape.

5.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, this study sheds light on the multifaceted role of Twitter (referred to as platform X) as a tool for Malaysian politicians to engage in information warfare and manifest their political agendas. The findings highlight several key themes that underscore the significance of X in shaping political discourse and communication strategies. Firstly, the trend of embracing digital platforms like X emerges as a strategic response to significant events in Malaysia's political landscape, signaling a shift towards diversified communication channels to stay connected with constituents and participate in community discourse.

Secondly, the microblogging element of X enables politicians to communicate concisely and engage in swift interactions, facilitating political discussions among enthusiasts despite their busy schedules. Moreover, the diverse user base of X, consisting of well-educated individuals, professionals, and urban dwellers, provides politicians with an opportunity to engage with informed and engaged participants in political discourse.

Furthermore, X serves not only as a platform for political communication but also as a tool for education, public enlightenment, and national policy formulation, allowing politicians to share stories, provide guidance, and educate followers on various issues. Additionally, X functions as a platform for politicians to verify information, gauge public opinion, and strategically manage their reputation, contributing to effective communication and decision-making in the political arena.

Moreover, X serves as a virtual town square where like-minded individuals connect, engage, and contribute to political discourse, providing politicians with a sense of fulfillment in being part of a community that shares similar political interests and values. Lastly, the visibility afforded by platforms like X enables politicians to connect with a broader audience, engage with constituents, and enhance their credibility and influence in the political arena, underscoring its importance in fostering political relevance and effective communication with the public. Overall, the findings of this study emphasize the pivotal role of X as a tool for Malaysian politicians to engage in information warfare, shape political discourse, and manifest their political agendas in the digital age.

6.0 References

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