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IFLIX started making its own content in 2017, beginning with stand-up comedy *Oil Jaga Mulut* and followed by the gritty, groundbreaking drama series, *KL Gangster: Underworld*, last year.

The video streaming service is starting the new year trying to conquer yet another new territory – documentaries.

“At times, true stories can be just as dramatic or even more dramatic than works of fiction. We felt GE14 was one such story,” says Mark Francis, iflix global director of original programming, at a press event in Petaling Jaya, Selangor last week.

*Bangkit: 11 Days That Changed A Nation* centres on the 14th Malaysia general elections (GE14) which saw the country choosing a new government for the first time.

The documentary recounts the 11 days that took place between nomination day (April 28) and polling day (May 9) and the various noteworthy events happening along the way – from the rejection of Tian Chua’s nomination papers for the Batu parliamentary seat to the efforts of everyday Malaysians helping their fellow countrymen cover the cost it took to travel home to vote.

“We were thinking about what kind of story we could tell that hasn’t already been covered,” says *Bangkit* director and co-producer Justin Ong. “So we came up with the idea of telling the story from the people’s perspective.”

While the documentary employs

# Rise of a new venture

iflix marks its foray into documentaries with GE14 feature, *Bangkit*.

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*Bangkit* centres on GE14 which saw the country choosing a new government for the first time. — Handout

some footages from traditional news outlets, Ong says what’s special is around 40% of *Bangkit* features footages generated by everyday Malaysians.

“These are rarely seen footages that were shot through people’s phones, where they might’ve shared only on their personal social media accounts. Of course, we still used footages from news

archives such as scenes at a press conference to provide context about what’s happening,” he adds.

Ong shares about the process of sourcing the footages: “When we first got the word out that we’re doing this, we got a lot of feedback.

“Everyone has their own stories. We went through a lot of footages. In terms of selecting them, we wanted to build a story around the

news highlights, so we tried to find the footages that told those stories.”

Aside from footages shot by everyday Malaysians, the documentary also features interviews with political analysts, journalists and lawyers.

“One of the things you’ll notice about the documentary is we didn’t interview a single politician.

“We didn’t want it to be about



In *Bangkit*, director Ong aims to tell the GE14 story through the lens of everyday Malaysians.

politicians talking about their agenda and so forth. It’s really a story from the people’s point of view,” Ong says.

Francis concurs: “*Bangkit* is not about the policies of any political party. It’s about the amazing achievement of Malaysian democracy itself, it’s about the human face of the election story.”

*Bangkit: 11 Days That Changed A Nation* is available on iflix.