



# 52nd National Day of MALAYSIA



The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

AUGUST 31, 2009

## Message

ON this day, Malaysians everywhere celebrate Hari Merdeka to commemorate the birth of the Federation of Malaysia fifty-two years ago. The principles that established our national identity in those early days continue to guide us now, as we enter a new period of greater responsibility and cooperation with the broader world.

Hari Merdeka should serve as a day for Malaysians to reflect upon how far we have come as a nation. We also want to renew our collective sense of purpose required to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Our drive for independence and self-determination began humbly in the shop houses, the rubber plantations and the fishing villages throughout the country. Chinese, Malay, Indian we came together in 1957 to defend our dream of self-governance and to forge a country out of our shared values.

These values reflect our dedication to community involvement, to working together and to creating a better future for generations of Malaysians to come. These founding principles will hold us steady even as we face a more challenging economic climate and other obstacles that we may not yet foresee.

In the decades that have passed since we first celebrated Merdeka, our values have been tested. We have had to make sacrifices to preserve the national unity that we as Malaysians hold sacred. We recognize that our sovereign rights and freedoms must be earned with each new generation.

They cannot be taken for granted. Together, we must renew our commitment to work together to find common solutions to the challenges we face.

This commitment lies at the heart of our principle of 1Malaysia. It means that all Malaysians have a voice; that we strive for inclusiveness and respect. Our country is strong because of the plurality of our citizens and the steps we are taking to ensure all voices are heard.

Essential to the 1Malaysia concept is recognition that accountability and transparency are important ingredients for good government. The increased emphasis on performance and delivery to the people will support further liberalization of our economy and economic opportunity for all.

As Malaysians embrace change within our own country, we also are eager to explore opportunities to become a more active global citizen. The values that were born from our independence now compel us to play a more engaged role in brokering peace and fostering understanding within the Middle East, providing humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, and helping to lead the way to economic resurgence in the ASEAN region, and in shaping a response to the current global economic crisis.

Around the world, Malaysians come together on Hari Merdeka to remember what makes us unique. Despite our differences and diverse backgrounds, no matter how far away from home we may find ourselves, the pride and unity that come with being Malaysian on this day overpowers all

that may divide us.

Our hope, our goal as a nation and as a people, must be to maintain this collective harmony on all days of the year. By doing this we may act as a model of how a diverse people can prosper together as one sovereign and independent state.



Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak  
Prime Minister of Malaysia

## Message

TODAY, 31st August 2009, marked the 52nd National Day of Malaysia. On this auspicious occasion, I, on behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia would like to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the Government and the people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. I would also like to convey my greetings and sincere best wishes to my fellow Malaysians residing in Bangladesh.

The two brotherly countries of Malaysia and Bangladesh have enjoyed strong and close bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1972. Our leaders have laid a strong foundation and the officials as well as the people have contributed significantly to the close knit friendship between our two countries.

Being co-members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Commonwealth, D-8 and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and as strong proponents of the multilateralism, Malaysia and Bangladesh share common views on major Regional and International issues and also work closely to promote peace, stability, and development in the international arena.

The bilateral trade and investment between Malaysia and Bangladesh is constantly expanding. Malaysia is today the 6th largest investor in Bangladesh and the largest among ASEAN Member States. The cumulative amount of investment until 2008 stood at approximately USD 1.3 billion. Bangladesh is also currently Malaysia's third largest export destination in South Asia.

Trade between Malaysia and Bangladesh recorded a significant growth of 65 percent in 2008 to reach almost USD700 million. Trade balance, however, recorded in favour of Malaysia. Nevertheless, Bangladesh exports to Malaysia grew by 66.7 percent in 2008 to USD55 million, mainly in transport equipment, textiles & clothing and processed food.

However, starting from fourth quarter of 2008, most countries across the globe were affected by the economic slowdown. Total trade between Malaysia and Bangladesh (from January to May 2009) too has dropped by 19.8 percent to USD214 million compared with the same corresponding period in 2008.

It is in this context that the Malaysian government has taken initiatives by organizing solo country exhibitions to promote Malaysian products and services as well as to encourage greater trade between Malaysia and Bangladesh. The most recent exhibition organized was the 'Malaysia Products and Services Exhibition 2009' in Dhaka where 16 companies took part in

promoting a wide range of high quality Made-in-Malaysia products and services. Just last month, a furniture exhibition called 'Malaysia FITEC Furniture Showcase 2009' was held in Dhaka where 20 leading furniture manufacturers from Malaysia took part. Several other events are being lined up for the year; Malaysia Healthcare Expo, Tourism Roadshows, Malaysian Food and Cultural Festival, just to name a few.

On the other hand, an exhibition named 'Showcase Bangladesh' showcasing Bangladeshi top products and services will be held in Kuala Lumpur in January 2010. This expo, organized by Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) is indeed a great initiative aimed at closing the current trade imbalance between Malaysia and Bangladesh.

I am glad to also note that approximately 4,000 Bangladeshi students have studied in private and public universities or colleges in Malaysia and almost 600 government officials from Bangladesh have benefited from the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) to date. Malaysia is committed to continue providing technical assistance, training courses and education through this initiative.

I am confident that our two countries will reach greater heights in our relations and further develop in new areas of cooperation for mutual benefits.

I pray to Allah Almighty for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh and its people. May the brotherly relations that our two countries and the people enjoy continue to be strengthened as we progress.

Thank you and Happy Merdeka!



Jamaluddin Bin Sabeh  
High Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh

## '1 Malaysia'

THE new initiative put forth by the new Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak is called '1 Malaysia.' The new Prime Minister has chosen 1 Malaysia as his guide and goal for his premiership, to take this young nation of 27 million people to new and greater heights; to forge a new level of nationhood out of the various

racas that comprise this land. His goal is admirable, yet will not be achieved without greater understanding of what it means to be a nation united, and the sacrifices necessary to achieve it.

Despite the last half a century of rapid development, relative peace and prosperity, Malaysia has miles to go before it can call itself a nation united. There are those that

say that the peace that exists is fragile; that all it takes is one major incident to re-ignite the racial riots of 1969. However, it is not fear of such a tragedy that drives the quest for 1 Malaysia. Rather, it is the knowledge that to achieve its goal of being a nation on par with the rest of the global community, Malaysia must rely on its people all of them and make full use of its human

capital to achieve its potential. Only when this occurs can an achievement like Vision 2020 become a reality.

Interdependence has always been Malaysia's secret to success, however, it has never been truly embraced. Now, with 1 Malaysia, the new Prime Minister has decided that it is time to stop apologizing for who we are as a nation and begin exploiting it as the vehicle to drive the nation to its next phase of success. It is not merely a cliché to say 'unity through diversity.' Malaysia has been doing it for over fifty years. However, more work needs to be done to make it a lasting reality and the very source of success itself.

1Malaysia is designed to reorient Malaysia toward a new direction geared towards greater unity and success. The days of a nation functioning as independent and separate ethnic and racial communities are gone. The new world we are living in requires the nation to act as one to live, eat and breath interdependence in everything that we do. The time has come, therefore, to give real life to the term 'bangsa Malaysia,' or a 'Malaysian people' that puts its loyalties to the greater society above all else by dedicating to eight noble principles as laid out by the Prime Minister. Through these eight principles, the nation has a blueprint for moving towards becoming united, able and ready to take on any and all challenges that might come its way.

1Malaysia, in fact, already exists. Its foundation is written into the founding principles of the nation (rukun negara) and the country's constitution and we live it everyday in our communities. It's called interdependence, yet due to political and historical realities, a united Malaysia in both form and spirit has yet to reach its full potential. It is a story that, God willing, will have a happy ending for the simple reason that it must. A nation dis-united in challenging times is doomed to fail. And right now, the nation and world are facing challenges on multiple fronts.

A united nation is a confident nation. A nation that is confident believes that no challenge is too great and that nothing can stand in its way. The spirit of 1Malaysia is toward creating a nation that truly believes that it can not only compete with anyone in the world, but that it can lead. To date, much of the discourse has been limited to the wish to be competitive as a nation. This is limited thinking and is at least partially due to the fact that Malaysia is not a confident nation. 'Malaysia boleh' which means 'Malaysia can' must be transformed into 'Malaysia yakin' which means 'Malaysia is confident'.

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Malaysia celebrates 52 years of Independence with pride

Aktel wholeheartedly congratulates Malaysia on Malaysia's Independence Day and wishes the country peace, unity and success.



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