

25/11/1999

Be grateful for peace, harmony

V. Chandrika

THE Budget report has come and gone. People are talking about it. Yet there is an obvious lack of gratitude. From what I have heard, most people, even my colleagues, are more interested in counting the amount they are supposed to get and how much they are actually going to get.

Personally, I am flabbergasted. Why are Malaysians, most, if not all, so money-minded?

Many people criticise the Government and the Prime Minister - they take it for granted that if someone else were to become the leader of this country, they are going to enjoy the same peace and harmony and the benefits of a good and prosperous economy.

Usually, we do not realise the value of anything or anyone until the said thing or person is gone.

I wish to make a personal appeal to all Malaysians, be they Malays, Chinese, Indians or of any other race: Why don't we think of what we can do for our beloved country and for our charismatic leader Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad? Why must we always ask what has the country given us? We have enjoyed so many things even when the economy was down. And wasn't it our very same leader who led us out of the hard times?

I am not a Malay. I am a Malaysian Indian and I am proud of that. The Prime Minister has done so much for us all and especially more for the Malays. But yet it is they who openly criticise the Government. It is very difficult for me to understand and accept this.

I am a single parent with a little daughter and I have never asked financial assistance from anyone. I am thankful for the pay I get as a teacher. I am grateful that the legal system has allowed my daughter to be with me.

I am grateful that I can walk the streets of my town without fear of being shot. I am grateful that I can get any kind of food, any time I like. There is no need to queue up, to beg or to steal. I am grateful that I can go to the temple to pray without any problem. The list goes on.

I appeal to all Malaysians to sit back and consider these things. Think of the country the way it was before Independence and the early years after that. Compare that with our position today. Did we do this by ourselves? We have been fortunate to be blessed with several leaders who slowly built up the country from scratch and the greatest leader of our country lives among us now. He is none other than Dr Mahathir. To all Malaysians, he should be a good example. I am always awed by Dr Mahathir. At an age where he should be resting, he relentlessly works for the progress of the nation.

At this point in time, we should actually pray for his long life, not ask him if his people will remember him. How can the people ever get Dr Mahathir out of their minds or out of their lives? Everywhere we look, his contributions fill the country. Should people continue to be ungrateful?

If we walk around with poisoned minds, then our children will also have poisoned minds. Let's clean our minds and pledge our total support for the country and our leader.

When I die one day and have the chance to be reborn, I would like to be reborn a Malaysian, nothing else.

Nothing beats the pleasure of living in a peaceful country in the company of diverse races and cultures and being led by an able and broad-minded leader.

