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Proud to be a citizen of this beautiful country

Mazi Shahurain

I CELEBRATE my 48th birthday tomorrow. It will be a day of gratitude to Allah the Almighty and also to the country I love, Malaysia.

Mine is not a spectacular success story but there is something in Malaysia that fills my soul with a feeling of independence. I work as a teacher and I have three children who have a good education.

My husband and I live in a comfortable house and during the holidays we travel within Malaysia. All this, we owe to ourselves and to the most beautiful country in the world.

Among some of our Malaysian friends it is not fashionable to be enthusiastic about the country. However, like most Malaysians of my time, I was brought up with a love for my country. And I remember what our Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said in his poem, "... the great task remaining before us...".

What Dr Mahathir challenged us to resolve is to get on with the unending job. What is handed to each generation is an obligation to dedicate ourselves anew to bringing to reality the ideals we profess.

As a citizen, I cannot do much about corruption, terrorism or war. But I can refuse war with my neighbour or corruption in the system.

I can vote instead of riot and I can write about my views. I hope to serve the country in my own way and pass this feeling to all the children that I have taught.