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Unity key to success for all Malaysians

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ON Feb 1 Putrajaya was declared our third Federal Territory. Another brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. With this, Malaysia is one step forward towards being a developed country. But are we ready?

The question is not about building the world's tallest structure, or being the leading manufacturer of computer microchips but we the people ourselves.

Yes, we are living in a materialistic world, but the real core of our success lies in unity.

I am only 17, so I know not of the suffering our grandparents endured before independence. But through the history lessons I studied, I realise that one man alone cannot build a country.

From what I see, we are depending on Dr Mahathir. Yes, he is to lead us, but we must help him not burden him.

We boast of being a multi-racial country where everyone lives in harmony. In truth we are divided, separated by our politics. It is saddening to learn that we need unity talks to put things together.

The Portuguese took over Malacca in 1511, because we were not united. Battles among ourselves only made matters worse when our rulers changed one by one, but we ourselves did not have the chance to rule our own country.

When finally Tunku Abdul Rahman managed to get support from all races, only then we managed to achieve our independence from the British.

Today, we are forgetting all this and we are becoming more divided.

Do we want history to repeat itself? I am thankful to be born a Malaysian. We are moving towards our dream. Thus, we must all work for it. Whether you're a student, a vendor, or a corporate leader, we all have our own share in developing our country. Stop abusing it by throwing rubbish everywhere, stop quarrelling, settle differences maturely and make the nation the priority.

Today we see our neighbouring countries facing problems because the leaders and the people are fighting each other. Do we want that to happen? Please learn from them.