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Be thankful for our unity and freedom

Lee Poh Lin

WITH National Day drawing nearer, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the past and present leaders whose efforts and unconditional love for the country have given Malaysia her independence and freedom.

Thus, we are given the privilege to enjoy the development and progress because we no longer have to live in misery as in colonial times.

I believe we have successfully forged unity and strengthened the bond among the various races.

I hope we have learnt from past experience that Malaysia achieved her freedom when all the races joined hands and worked together as one big family to fight for her independence.

What makes us Malaysians is not the colour of our skin or our language, but our ability to put aside our differences to celebrate the diversity, one where all the colours unite. After 46 years of Independence, the racial harmony we have achieved is something too precious to take for granted.

Looking at the big picture would make us agree with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that our peace and prosperity is no overnight miracle. Rather, it is hard-earned result of longstanding friendship, moderation and tolerance. So let us celebrate Merdeka with a sense of love and patriotism.

Do not start to appreciate things when we have lost them.

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Seremban