

Racial Politics
in
MALAYSIA

by

Goh Cheng Teik

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~~Perpustakaan Nasional~~

Racial Politics in Malaysia

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He makes out a case to substantiate his belief that the new generations of Chinese, Indians and others who are the descendants of the early non-indigenous people, have no emotional attachments whatsoever to any other country other than Malaysia.

They love Malaysia, they want to struggle for Malaysia and devote their entire life to build Malaysia as a strong and peaceful nation where all the races live as brothers and sisters. But, unfortunately, adults pass on their racial prejudices and poison the minds of the young. And, warns, the author, because of this, the danger of ethnic conflict is ever present, just waiting to be ignited.

However, despite dark predictions by prophets of doom that Malaysia's multi-ethnic society would collapse, the nation continues to thrive three decades after achieving independence. This is because there are people still who have the maturity and sanity to realise the importance of preserving inter-racial harmony.

He is convinced that the Malays who form the biggest majority are a race who have been brought up by their religion to do good unto others and to accept their fellow-human beings as brothers and sisters. He is convinced that the various races of Malaysia have their own strengths and human values which will complement each other to make this nation a truly peacefully one. He points out that despite some

Publisher's Foreword

Racial Politics in Malaysia is an earnest appeal to Malaysians to discard prejudices and join hands to harness the multi-resources of this tropical paradise and build a nation that is not only strong economically as a fast-emerging industrial country, but, equally importantly, also praiseworthy for unity despite its diversity.

Goh Cheng-Teik --- historian-academician-politician-author-shrewd-student-of-society --- does not mince his words. Drawing from his vast personal experience of the nation's path to independence and the multi-faceted forces --- internal and external --- that played and are continuing to play a vital role in shaping the minds of the races of Malaysia, Dr Goh drives home this important message : there are too many racial prejudices being harboured by the Malays, Chinese, Indians, Ibans, Kadazans and others which are the main stumbling causes preventing this resource-rich nation from speedily getting on with the business of nation-building. And the sad thing is that many of these prejudices are being perpetuated by power - seeking politicians and thoughtless parents.