

**COMMONWEALTH DAY 2021 MESSAGE MONDAY, 8 MARCH 2021**

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This year's Commonwealth Day is celebrated on March 8, 2021. Malaysia joins 53 other Commonwealth nations to celebrate our common bond and the contribution of the Commonwealth of Nations to the creation of a harmonious global environment.

This year's Commonwealth Day is also special as it coincides with International Women's Day. This fortuitous alignment provides a special opportunity for us to recognise women leaders across the Commonwealth that have contributed positively to sustainable development and in building resilient societies.

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, which has swept through the world, has profoundly altered the way in which every individual and organisation operates and functions. As the pandemic continues to challenge all Commonwealth countries, Malaysia remains hopeful that the Commonwealth will emerge stronger in fighting the pandemic through innovative partnerships and new approaches to protect the well-being of the people, especially those who are most at risk.

This year, the Republic of Rwanda will be hosting the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in June 2021 in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda with the theme, 'Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming'.

Malaysia is committed to work together with other Commonwealth countries in strengthening cooperation in a number of priority areas such as promoting good governance, addressing the social and economic impact of the COVID -19 pandemic, sustainable development, environmental issues, youth, education and empowerment of women.

Malaysia looks forward to the upcoming CHOGM 2021 in Kigali, Rwanda, and reaffirms its commitment to the various initiatives towards achieving global peace and shared prosperity.

**PUTRAJAYA****8 MARCH 2021**