

**Reflections of a Merdeka child**  
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COMMENT "This coming Merdeka will you be writing something about our country?" the unexpected question came in an email from an old friend I hadn't seen for awhile. "Do email me a copy if you do," he wrote.

NONEI feel ambivalent writing on Merdeka. Between the mainstream and online news lies the balanced truth, as Malaysians today go through the angst of political change.

The one who uses the pen instead of the sword must draw blood without destroying. And like the surgeon who heals, he or she has to make the incisions.

Malaysia is a young nation. It is still a work in progress. And young nations need the discipline to focus on the vision of the founding fathers and the genesis of their existence even as they adapt to changing times. The danger of not changing is fossilisation. And fossilisation is the result of being regressive.

"In many counsellors there is victory," says an old proverb. The late President John F Kennedy had the knack of tapping into the brains of those in his cabinet and committees. He always listened and weighed carefully what others said. That according to some observers was his forte.

It is something we all need to do. It is something governments need to do.

There is conventional wisdom that if you want results, employ those who are smarter than you. Sadly fear makes people do the opposite. And it is fear that makes people treat their neighbours shabbily and governments take a hard approach when they should be more understanding.

Scoring political points

A non-Muslim goes to a surau with an olive branch and good intentions. But the Pharisees pick on this hapless politician. A Malaysiakini report says she is going to apologise to the Sultan.

Why? What has she done wrong? This is an example of a regressive approach and political opportunism: the nit-picking and making a mountain out of a mole hill to score political points. Sadly there's too much of it.

We reflect on the past that we may be wiser now and in the future.  
There are many lessons we can learn from our history.

malaysia independence merdeka tunku abdul rahman declare 290806The image of Bapa KeMerdekaan - Tunku Abdul Rahman - raising his fist into the air to shouts of 'Merdeka' at the Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur on that auspicious day, 53 years ago, has become iconic, and Merdeka and its aftermath offer valuable lessons.

We know the Tunku died a disappointed and disillusioned man - a victim of a nation's history that failed him and its true sons and daughters, and left them with dashed hopes. We can easily forget the sacrifices he and others made to gain for us our independence and freedom because history is often written not in truth but prejudice when politicians hold the

historian's hand.

### Awe-inspiring Tunku

I still remember the day the Tunku came to his alma mater, the Penang Free School, and delivered an awe-inspiring speech to us, mostly Chinese students, during a school assembly. We were all children of the Merdeka generation, full of hope and promise.

"You are the future leaders of the country," the Tunku said, with a hint of a Cambridge accent, "so you must study hard, be law-abiding, and do your best to serve your country."

We did study hard, furthered our studies at home and abroad, and equipped ourselves to serve the nation.

But when we were ready the Tunku was no longer there.

It was the ominous start of Merdeka lost.

They had asked us what we can do for the nation. But we forgot to ask them what the nation would do for us. And more importantly what it would do to us. Those who demanded equity for themselves did not give equity to others. And it has been that way since.

Still in good faith we had done our utmost - for ourselves and for our country.

But they no longer needed someone like the Tunku who was the primeval Malaysian, the original 1Malaysian, the true Prince of Bangsa Malaysia, who was above all - the leader for all - and who promised every citizen an equal share in their country's future. He was too Malaysian!

School didn't teach us to dichotomise the nation into 'they' and 'us'. It taught us the opposite. The politicians divided us. And we didn't like it. We still loved our Malay friends and they loved us. Our lives intermingled. We were after all children of the Independence taught to live in harmony with one another.

"Call me Bapa," my Malay friend's father insisted. His family had been like my family. He was the progeny of a British education, had become a school principal, a devout Muslim later in life, and the sort of 'Merdeka Man' that epitomised the Tunku's Malaysia. But our world was changing.

My close Malay schoolfriend would be a bumiputera - a son of the soil - but me - born and bred like he in every way? They would call us non-bumiputera, made to feel second-class and outcasts in our beloved country. They are still doing it today - school principals, of all people, bullying innocuous school children under their charge and belittling them. And 'Bapa' would have been upset.

The yeast of pride and prejudice would grow like a spreading cancer.

### Political racism

Topics the British allowed everyone to discuss freely became taboo, unilaterally classified 'sensitive.' The virus of political racism began to spread but many children of the Merdeka generation were unaffected, protected by a sound education and vaccinated against communalism.

The children of Merdeka were ready to defend their country against Sukarno during Konfrontasi. They were good enough to die but not good enough to get a job. 'For bumiputera only - non-bumiputera need not apply' the many job advertisements read - I felt cheated and betrayed and bushwhacked.

It seemed unfair. It was unfair. What if there were advertisements that read, "For non-bumiputra only - bumiputra need not apply." The problem with those who cite 'offending the sensitivities' of their group often forget about other people's sensitivities as if they had none.

Why should any affirmative action deprive others of the same opportunities? After all - the British colonialists treated all citizens fairly. Whither the justice Merdeka wrought? I thought. I coped somehow like all the other children of deprivation.

Years later the Tunku himself died disappointed and disillusioned as he saw his Merdeka vision disappear and his beloved Malaysia undergo an era of unprecedented racial discrimination, repression and reprehensible double-standards, against his cherished values.

I felt his pain as I regularly signed the cheques for the company he partially owned and that published his articles.

His voice was heard in his weekly column 'As I See It' in the Star, then truly a People's paper, but the Tunku by then was no match for the man who would mesmerise the nation with his grandiose even if flawed schemes.

The people fell hook, line and sinker, and readily gravitated to what he promised, what their itching ears wanted to hear. Poor fools! Today they curse the man - too late!

The Tunku had reminded him of the Merdeka principles, of democracy and freedom, of not using the ISA to stifle political comment unfavorable to the government of the day, but his pleas fell on deaf ears.

The acolytes of the maverick Pied Piper had sold their souls to the God of Mega Materialism and paid the mega price with their freedom, many saw their birthrights being questioned from time to time yet kept voting into power the architects and engineers of their plight. You can't be more self-destructive and idiotic than that.

### Country in a bloodbath

But it did not begin with the maverick.

Years ago, May 13, 1969 saw the country in a bloodbath. Racial violence erupted. Soldiers shot and killed innocent civilians. Mobs ran amok. And democracy went up in smoke.

In his book, 'May 13' kua kai soong and may 13 racial riot book 170507, Dr Kua Kia Soong postulates the credible conspiracy theory.

It was Merdeka murdered. Merdeka lost.

In the aftermath, the country was ransomed to a narrow nationalism that sent cracks through the length and breadth of the nation to this day. It was the start of 'that' nonsense. We learned to read, write and count, the three positive 'R's' in school and we learned the negative three 'R's' - of race, religion and repression from the politicians. It was the end of

innocence.

Nationhood would never succeed when a national leader thinks of his race first and the others as an afterthought. If a country leader is not leader of all he is not leader at all. It was a mistake - to adopt any policy resembling apartheid, and history bears it out. In the country the government scrambled to tackle the increasing racial polarisation while feeding the insidious serpent of hate simultaneously.

Vision schools was the answer they said but whose vision? Who murdered the Merdeka vision? Who messed up our school system that had produced successful students of all races who though not having seen one another for decades still shared a bond of genuine friendship and camaraderie? Why did they have to reinvent the wheel?

Even as I write there is an e-mail from an old Malay school friend asking his old classmates to pray for another former Malay school friend lying in a coma from a stroke. Pray? The racists have not divided us and never will.

NONETun Abdul Razak (right), the 'ultra Malay leader' had taken over from the Tunku but he didn't foresee the danger of giving a blank chequebook to those who are untrustworthy. Good intentions aren't always sufficient in running a nation. Good people, good policies and good systems work better.

He gave birth to the New Economic Policy (NEP) - and made radical policy changes that would alter the country's social and political topography.

Naked and aggressive

After May 13, 1969 the country would see a new type of racism - naked and aggressive and legitimised by emergency powers, political might and tacit militant muscle. Many saw the ominous signs.

he country saw its first wave of the brain drain. Students went abroad to study and never returned. But I did return and do not regret it. And when I left again, it had nothing to do with the country's politics. If it was politics I would have stayed.

Razak did what he had to do.

The marriage with Singapore had not worked.

It was his turn to show what a chauvinist Malay leader could do after Lee Kuan Yew proved too much of a challenge to them.

The NEP became a misnomer for Malay Economic Policy in practice. In 1971 it cut a swathe through the harmonious nation of over 10 million multi-racial citizens and divided it. When Malaysian would have sufficed before everyone now had a new label except they did not put armbands on them like the Nazis did.

In fact Malaysian became synonymous with Malay to the chagrin of the true believers - who felt the country was being re-colonised from within. Economically, Razak wanted the Malays to get 30 percent of the economy. He said it must be done in twenty years - within a generation.

But was it necessary to superimpose Malay on everything? After all there is so much in the Malay culture that non-Malays already liked and even the Chinese will swear they are a nice

people to relate with - but the ugly politicians had to spoil it.

Not content to rely on osmosis they had to use coercion. And no one likes to be forced to do something in a freed country.

Achieving the NEP was a tall but not impossible or unreasonable order. It would have been ridiculous to have a new country where old wealth dictated everything or were in the hands of a minority. In a time of rapid economic expansion it was achievable.

But that was not to be. How could it be?

Dishonest people were robbing the gravy train faster than the Bank Negara could print money and derailing the NEP. Corruption and bailouts had taken its toll on the government's development and coupled with incompetence derailed the train that would deliver 30 percent of the country's wealth to the Malays.

Of course the most serious derailments did not occur during Razak's time but over time. So naturally, the statisticians would cry, "Not yet 30 percent, only 18 percent". "Not so," remonstrated think-tank economist Dr T G Lim, "already more than 30 percent" he disclosed, but those in power ignored the facts.

They had dug their own grave by not letting those who could help the country play more crucial roles. Instead they elevated the deadwood - they put politics ahead of national interests. They failed to employ people smarter than them.

So today they are still talking about the prolongation of a flawed national policy that spawns corruption, wastage and racism like a blocked dirty drain breeds mosquitoes.

azlanThe strengthened Opposition Pakatan Rakyat promises to remedy the shortcomings if given the chance and indeed they should. It is kicking against the goad when politicians refuse to accept the reality that Malaysia is best served when the best players are in the team.

Ketuanan Melayu - the antithesis of the Tunku's Merdeka vision and of true nationhood became a defacto unwritten law, as if part of the country's constitution.

The 'Young Turks' were on the ascendancy and 'The Malay Dilemma' written ironically by the half-Indian new country leader became the manifesto of the nation as Mein Kempf was to the Germans.

A nation divided

Razak died in office five years after the NEP's inception. He wanted to achieve the noble two-fold aim of "eradicating poverty and eradicating economic function with race." He had not intended that the NEP would divide the nation, only its wealth.

It is a lesson for all that if a policy is not intrinsically sound and just, it is likely to turn into an uncontrollable beast.

However many Malays got more than their 30 percent share in the mayhem of the turbulent times long after Razak was gone. Many Malays also got nothing and struggled together with the non-Malays. Their eyes began to open and their whimper rose to a crescendo when in later years hundreds of thousands of marginalised Indians took to the streets in peaceful

protests.

The truth is it never was or is a Malay versus non-Malay contest in the country. This is a lie fabricated by the ugly politicians. It was never part of the Merdeka formula. It had always been a problem of human failing and greed, when those given the onerous public trust of administration short-changed the country and their own people.

The absence of solid good governance that we see in Singapore that resulted stymied Razak's NEP and quenched its spirit as much as any race-based policy would inevitably quench the Merdeka spirit and used race as a pretext to carry out their own selfish agenda.

NONEketuanan Melayu is a flawed and failed doctrine. If it were true why was Anwar Ibrahim (right) and so many towering Malays including judges and top civil servants stymied? It is the enemy of the Merdeka principle. In years to come when the nation is almost entirely Malay it would stick out like a sore thumb.

Again it is a pretext for the corrupt to keep the Malays on a leash so they can elevate themselves as self-appointed champions of race and religion - a cruel and costly charade.

If you think I am wrong how then does Singapore do it with its own multiracial mix? How does it maintain peace and order and harmony and take care of its minorities? And give every Singaporean a decent chance at life?

No hangups

This year they will record the highest GDP growth in the world of at least 13 percent. And when I talk to Malay Singaporeans they don't have any hangups about the way they are treated. Sadly the same can't be said for the non-Malays in Malaysia and increasing number of Malays. Behind the veil of anonymity the Internet offers some revealing insights of the pervasive disgruntlement.

The Singaporeans just don't talk about zero-tolerance of extremism and divisiveness - they act - they punish the culprits without fear or favour. Racism is the opium of the brain dead, so they banned it. They want to be a clever country and they are.

Meanwhile Malaysia exports its talents and now desperately tries to import them back but in futility.

Today Pakistan a Muslim country appeals to the world to help its citizens in distress. Will the advocates of non-interference still think it is a Muslim problem and only Muslims need bother? Will any government in hardship still think no one should intervene in its internal affairs?

The Pakistani President does not think so and unashamedly appeals for intervention and rightly so. We are our brothers' keepers and it takes a disaster to remind us. When we learn from one another and help one another we all benefit. But those who use race or religion to divide the country are the Merdeka-wreckers.

Despite the recent Allah controversy it was never a Christian versus Muslim problem either. In fact, remove the political instigation and gratuitous un-Islamic policies and one finds Muslims and Christians and followers of other religions share many similar concerns and possess a common desire to live in a moral and upright state.

Before and after Merdeka there was religious harmony until the politicians and recently the lying mufti began to stir the hornets' nest.

Eggs for the dishonest

After Razak corruption had changed the NEP from being the nation's radical economic equaliser into the golden goose that laid the eggs for the dishonest ones. Unchecked power enabled the more ruthless politicians to hold power for decades. They bought mansions overseas while the natives lost their rainforests, homes and way of life.

Is this the Merdeka vision?

The political warlords became self-vested and the nation suffered - especially the underprivileged Malays who joined the Chinese in the community of the deprived. The recent compensation of Felda farmers is symptomatic of the rip offs.

If Razak were alive today would he be upset, what happened to his NEP agenda?

nazir razak Probably yes judging from his own youngest son's recent remarks since politics is also family business in Malaysia. Nazir Razak (right), CEO of the CIMB group lamented the 'bastardisation of the NEP' in a Malaysiakini report.

With the Approved Permits (AP's) he said the government might as well give them the money. That's what happened and they got more than the APs.

And not long ago during a by-election elder brother PM Najib Razak reminded the nation that he had to stay true to his late father's NEP vision. Such filial piety is rare these days. But politicians are good at talking not showing. And none more so than the Maverick.

Midas wannabe

When he was King the Midas wannabe wanted what the Chinese had - money, prestige, mansions, posh cars - the lot and more. He wanted them for himself, his family and his cronies - without the sweat and toil and what took a lifetime of sacrifice to achieve. They got it. They lost it. The people paid for it, again and again.

And Barry Wain in his excellent book 'Malaysian Maverick: Mahathir Mohammed in Turbulent Times' which every Malaysian should read because it provides a useful history of Malaysia you won't find in school textbooks, mentions the 'lost 100 billion ringgit' - enough to make many Malays, not only the cronies, millionaires overnight and many of them also mighty angry.

Money is not everything. But losing the Merdeka spirit of cohesiveness and unity is more costly than the lost billions. This is the greater loss.

It is a joke that Malaysians are charged with sedition over their inconsequential acts when the nation was rendered asunder by far more serious acts that have destroyed the independence of all its public institutions and the one responsible is not held to account.

That anyone can become untouchable or any issue be brushed under the carpet in the name of national security shows the country's immaturity.

The Tunku was unique, the Merdeka spirit is priceless, and it behooves every Malaysian to

defend this intangible and cardinal national heritage that is under siege. The Merdeka ethos - every citizen is equal - is the nation's lifeblood; it is the wellspring of all national policies and if people lose sight of it the nation will lose its direction.

Even 1Malaysia and Bangsa Malaysia - pale imitations of the real thing cannot remove themselves from the foundational fact.

If Malaysians are in conflict it will spell the end for the nation. Yet to an extent conflict is needed to prove who cares for the country and who cares for themselves. But the common thread that binds Malaysians together is their Merdeka legacy. If the lies and brainwashing are stemmed the truth will set people free.

Crutches not needed

Many capable Malays are angry because they are unfairly stigmatised and don't need crutches. A discriminatory policy can hurt those it is meant to help. Tun Razak did not intend for the NEP to be a Never Ending Pot of gold for the Malays.

Some anti-Merdeka elements now resort to religion to create disunity and the lying mufti will sell his sullied soul for 'thirty pieces of silver' like a Judas. But all religionists who believe there is God will not lie because in every religion it is a sin.

How can anyone serve God but act for the devil - the father of lies? Does God teach us to tell lies and act unjustly? Even atheists think it is wrong. Rid the nation of these hypocrites and troublemakers and there will be peace. The corrupt do not care if they hurt their religion, their race, their nation.

Politicians with untold wealth should be asked to share their money-making secrets with their poor and struggling citizens? Why pay tens of millions to foreign consultants when the politicians who have a flair for making money are in our backyards?

Merdeka suffers when some Chinese carry the Ugly Chinaman bug - the sickness that the late Taiwanese author Bo Yang described in his book of the same name. He said that specimens of the minority Chinese in a community had a tendency to betray their own people to ingratiate themselves among the majority rulers - in short- they can be traitorous - spelt with a capital Tee.

A dog knows its master but when you forget your own race and speak ill of your own people without justification even my dead dog thinks it is dastardly insane and despicable. Self-criticism is good but not when it is flagrantly destructive and offensive. And the political eunuchs don't do better either.

Fortunately the trail of blood of the Chinese martyrs tells a different story because while the royal colour of their bygone emperors in ancient history is yellow they are not. Those who mistake their forbearance for cowardice are wont to rue their mistake.

Turbulent times

Today it is turbulent times all over again.

"Woe is the nation," seems to be the rakyat's cry among the many aggrieved. The country is still wilting under the same 'rotten administration' and 'police state' that came with the 'Islamic state' - the legacies of a former leader whose condemnation of his successor was an

unwitting display of self-incrimination.

NONEPM Najib Abdul Razak (left) tries his best but how do you repair a boat with so many leaks and you are not sure you can turn your back to those you count on to help you? When you are trying hard to push your 1Malaysia agenda and your right-hand man says, no, "I am Malay first" why worry about the Opposition? Even Brutus wasn't so brutally obvious.

The real enemy of the Malay race is not the Chinese race and vice versa but the depraved, covetous, corrupt and conniving politicians and their cronies and the culpable 'Gestapo' policemen who abet them. The ruthless and desperate will crush all who stand in their way and we have seen the evidence.

Anwar 'black eye' Ibrahim - the renaissance Malay - is the prime living proof. And there are more of their victims. The former chief graft buster who was 'scolded' for doing his job properly, and another crime investigator was charged but acquitted for exposing criminal activity.

In many ways it is ironic that the Malays who have so much power also have less freedom compared to their non-Malay neighbours. That was never part of the Tunku's Merdeka plan. It was never his vision to see innocent Malays shot down by the police like dogs and to add insult to injury have the police fabricate the stories.

The state decides their religion. The state decides how they are to live. The state is their nanny from cradle to grave. How do you raise towering Malays when you treat them like babies? And the towering ones are cut down to size because they refuse to join the gang?

Billion flags

Much is not well in Merdekaland the land we love - our birthplace and the land of our ancestors and Merdeka's children. Let's not pretend all is well and wave the flags if we are not free.

But indeed we should fly a billion flags when the nation is truly free. With the diagnosis of the sickness must come the bitter medicine but so far the patient refuses to take it.

The administration is like an old rickety machine with faulty parts and in desperate need of repair and change. It is not delivering the nation what Merdeka and even what Razak's NEP promised. It is a sick machine. It is time for a new model and the country needs one and can afford it.

It is a moral crisis that cannot be resolved with more acts of wanton corruption and selective prosecution and more cosmetic surgery and politicking. It is a rainforest tree besieged by termites whose voracious appetite cannot be satiated. It is a nation in the throes of a struggle for its survival and facing the risk of descending into the abyss of moral anarchy.

These are not the rantings of a partisan politician but a saddened son of the Merdeka generation.

But more importantly what are people going to do about it?

What will they do with the the corrupt neo-colonialists - those who strangle the country in the pernicious bondage and curtailment of liberty that Merdeka was supposed to have

removed. They not only bully the "lain-lain" but their own. It is simplistic to blame just those in power for the people's plight because where does power come from in a constitutional democracy?

Share the blame

The voters and citizens who prop up the political warlords and pseudo-nationalists must share the blame. They must redeem themselves if they have not done the right thing. They must stop empowering those who are hijacking their nation.

They are guilty of the same crime because they offer and receive the bribes. The corrupt can be found across the political divide. Let us not just heed what people say but judge what they do.

There is a painful lesson to learn. The corrupt have already showed their hand and sabotaged the reform. Their dishonesty will be their downfall.

Our mothers and daughters are already toiling abroad as illegal workers so that they can save for their families and send their kids to finish their studies.

Qualified Malays are working abroad because they don't want to be stigmatised or have their freedom curtailed in their homeland. It is not a race problem, never has been, otherwise the mixed-race administration for 53 years has been a fraud.

azlanEveryone has the right to pick their leaders. One man's leader may be another's rogue. But only fools do not know the difference between a corrupt leader and an honest one.

Only fools will continue to vote for the corrupt. And only fools give the power to servants to make them masters over them.

A middling and politically mangled Malaysia is the price of blind loyalty, ignorance and obvious folly.

The real relevance of Merdeka today is its reminder to all Malaysians what the Tunku fought for - the right to self-government and individual freedom, the right to a 'clean, efficient and trustworthy' government, and a fair one at that, not hypocrisy and hype, and more corruption that results in hardships for the rakyat.

I dare say every Malaysian will be better off if the leaking boat is allowed to sink with no passengers on board. It is too risky to place your future in the hands of those who promise but don't deliver and have a poor track record, enough to make everyone skeptical.

It is far too dangerous to travel in a leaky boat heading toward inevitable shipwreck.

This is what Merdeka is about - our freedom.

Today the advent of an alternative government raises the nation's hopes again. March 2008 proved it can be done but the Perak subversion proves it can be undone. Only the voters can ensure their own decisive future and save themselves. Politicians are impotent without popular support.

Still there is hope for a Merdeka renaissance, a Merdeka resurrection and Merdeka regained - when people put nation before self and reflect on the road they travel. You can't have

political reform without personal reform. Those who want to replace the corrupt, are they incorruptible?

Politicians may be good at politicking but can they govern? They may be good at gaining power but do they know how to use it? That is why we need checks and balances. We need free and truthful media to keep the executive honest.

Merdeka dropout

Every Malaysian who is not involved in shaping his or her nation is a Merdeka dropout. Every Malaysian who is not registered to vote is utterly irresponsible and does not deserve to live in a democracy.

A two-party system as many have suggested may be the first step toward the democracy that Merdeka intended. After all that is how the Westminster system works. And a stint in the political wilderness may benefit those who think political hegemony is their birthright.

So what are Malaysians really celebrating on Merdeka Day?

The truth is there is only one God, one king, one constitution, one nation for Malaysia. It was decided in the Merdeka Declaration on 31 August 1957 with a written constitution as proof.

If you are not celebrating this watershed historic event that is evident in your country today then what are you celebrating? A mirage? A meaningless ritual?

Without the fruit of Merdeka all is hypocrisy. In Merdeka is embedded the crucial DNA of the nation. The Constitution defining the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities of the rulers, politicians and citizens are plain to see. Anything more or less is an abuse of power. What the people have lost they must regain.

NONEMerdeka lost or Merdeka regained the people must choose.

If in practice we do not see the evidence of the Merdeka Declaration what are we celebrating on Merdeka Day? After all there is Malaysia Day but that is a different story. Empire building is vastly distinct from unshackling your country from one. Merdeka is something else, something special.

Riven by race and religion

A nation riven by race and religion cannot gel as one nation - it is not the Merdeka Declaration. Until we learn to love our neighbors as ourselves we may fall prey to those who entice and incite us to hate. It may not be explicit but implicit in the Merdeka Declaration is the commitment to 'unity in diversity.'

Is there a better way? Do we have a choice?

On Merdeka Day I raised a toast to the memory of the one who fought to give us a free nation, a nation of hope and justice, a nation of truth that 'unity is strength' and that diversity is a gift of God and bigotry is the curse.

I remembered the late Tunku and all those who shared his Merdeka vision, the gallant ones that sacrificed their lives for their nation, the civil servants, the judges, policemen,

politicians, ordinary Malaysians who lost their jobs for doing them and who lost their freedom but left us a legacy of hope for a better and brighter tomorrow - they - the children of Merdeka - are the unsung heroes.

I said a prayer for the government and the opposition and every Malaysian unfairly jailed under the ISA and all those who still cherish the Merdeka dream for their nation and work toward its eventual success.

We are after all - together- children of Merdeka - and we are everywhere. We will sing 'Negara-ku' with a clear conscience and a combined voice. Merdeka! God bless Merdekaland.

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