

Unity, Malaysia's greatest weapon
Malaysiakini.com
Sept 2, 2008
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My theme for this year's Merdeka celebration is a simple but powerful word, 'Unity'. For 50 years, the nation has been very divided - though functioning as one.

Anwar Ibrahim has brought about a new thinking and mindset change in the people that we are one, though very different in race, culture, language and religion.

We hope this new trend of thoughts will further blossom and totally break us free from the shackles of communalism to a common community that prevails on mutual respect and caring for each other.

It augurs well for the nation as the people now see the need and necessity for change rather than remain in the same mundane state of following one direction that further alienates itself from the people with its provocative actions, only to create more confusion and disgust.

There will always be sour losers and dissatisfied people no matter what good is done for them and these people will continue to foment hatred and disunity by their derogatory and unsavoury remarks. However, they are few and can be easily overcome if we always stand united.

Let this new beginning with the 51st year of Merdeka, forge new dimensions and visions to see progressive growth and development. The wealth in terms of people and resources is immense.

If used wisely and prudently, the outcome can be tremendous even surpassing other nations in Asia who have now passed us and way ahead.

Let our vision 2020 be not what Mahathir envisaged but one that puts more emphasis on nation building through people building in the context of racial unity, just freedom and sharing that are equally important and significant to the growth in investments, GDP and per capita income.

All political leaders must always bear in mind, if they use racial sentiments to gain political mileage from one community or to pit one against the other, the obvious outcome is failure not success for all except for those greedy and selfish leaders.

This must be avoided at all costs. Be innovative in your thoughts and actions to gain support and trust and not play dirty tricks or hit below the belt.