

We must believe in a true Malaysia

IN recent years, some disheartening articles in the media have had Malaysians questioning other Malaysians on their flunking and sense of patriotism. Though these articles are not many, they express feelings and sentiments that run deep in the minds of Malaysians.

In spite of these sentiments, everyday I slog as hard as the next guy to ensure there's food on the table and a good lifestyle for my family, while contributing to my country by way of taxes and a kind smile whenever I can.

I support our Constitution's guiding principles that guarantee equal rights for all citizens. All I ask is, instead of criticising me, please, just say "Thank you".

In spite of how some of us feel inside, I, like many other Malaysians, continue to live life, love life and laugh at life with our families and friends, commune with our multiracial neighbours, and help each other.

And now suddenly I read how my patriotism and contributions are questioned by people who do not even commune with me. Their rationale serves to undermine many sentiments and cut wounds, not heal them.

Maybe a lot of tins has accumulated because they have forgotten how to say a simple. "Thank you, brother and sister, for doing your part in spite of how you sometimes feel".

We need to realise that everyone's contributions have counted towards our nation's "brand" building and continuous growth. And all need and want to feel good for their efforts, no matter how magnanimous or minuscule they are.

Instead, we are told to. "Be careful", "Don't say this", "Don't do that", "Don't write this" but. "Hang a flag"!

We must stop viewing Malaysia through jaded eyes and truly start wanting and believing in a true Malaysia — a Malaysia where unfair policies are cleansed out of its system. Then only will "Merdeka" or freedom truly become a state of mind and being, not just an act.

Freedom to really take the time to try to understand our differences to order to better know our worth.

Thank you to all Malaysians and may you have a Happy Merdeka.

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Merdeka means freedom to take the time to understand our differences in order to better know our worth.