

THE STAR

DATE: 31/08/2007

Being Malaysian is greatest gift of all

The Star - 31/8/2007

I AM a typical Malaysian. To me being Malaysian is the greatest gift of all.

Being a Malaysian means being open to new things and expressing ourselves in many ways, it also means meeting new people, speaking up for ourselves, understanding other cultures and ways of life as well as to respect and show interest in other's choices.

In Malaysia, our leaders show full effort to help our country excel and succeed. The leadership shown is one reason why we, the people of this country are able to work together as one society and create a better community.

Like they say "Real leaders are ordinary people with extraordinary determinations".

I am also proud of Malaysia because we are active in sports and can build a better name for our country in the eyes of the

world. We are mainly good and talented in squash and badminton.

Growing up as a Malaysian, I was taught to respect my elders and to be brave to speak up for myself and for the truth, I have also grown to appreciate different cultures and traditions.

My mum is a Sino Kadazan, which is a mixture of Chinese and Kadazan while my dad is an Indian.

Since my father is an Indian, we celebrate Deepavali.

On my mother's side, we get to celebrate Christmas and the Harvest Festival where people celebrate after harvesting their crops.

I was raised up in these ways of life and cultures. I enjoy living in these various cultures as it allows me to be more open and understanding. I am always interested in what others do.

Although there are many cultures in Malaysia, we are all connected to the threads that define us as Malaysian.

One is the "mamak stalls". Although of different backgrounds and races we gather at these "mamak stalls" to have breakfast, lunch and also meals.

Something else that defines us as Malaysians is our use of expressions. Not facial expressions, but vocal expressions like "lah" or "kan".

As true Malaysians, we must preserve our nationhood forever and always. Let Malaysia be at the top of the world.

MAVINIA ALLAGU,
Kuala Lumpur.

Editor's note: The writer is a 13-year-old Form One student.