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# Bring nation to greater heights

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## Continue past leaders' struggle, says Najib

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysians should continue the struggle of those who fought for the country's independence by strengthening their efforts to bring their nation to greater heights, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

In his Merdeka message, the Deputy Prime Minister said Malaysians should remember those who set the stage for the country's independence.

"The new generation should not only protect and maintain the peace and successes that they have inherited but must strengthen their efforts to make our country a better place," he added.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said Indians had progressed a lot over the past 50 years. He said more than 80% of Indians live in urban areas with good salaries now compared to the past 30 to 50 years, when they lived in the rubber estates.

"But there is still work to be done to upgrade the standard of living of the Indian community in the country," he added.

Samy Vellu also urged the various races to ensure that unity is maintained to ensure a stable country.

Gerakan adviser Datuk Seri Lim Keng Yaik said Malaysians must be committed to developing a truly "Bangsa Malaysia".

"A truly 'Bangsa Malaysia' is a society that commits itself to a sense of belonging, share a set of values pertinent to a plural society and adheres to the Rukunegara as the national philosophy and the Federal Constitution as the supreme law of the land," he added.

PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas said Malaysians must focus on solidarity to become



*Malaysiaku Gemilang*

a united "Bangsa Malaysia".

"This concept (Bangsa Malaysia) will become a determining factor for the country's success in the next 50 years and beyond," he added.

DAP national chairman Karpal Singh said Malaysians should be proud of the achievements made by the country in the last 50 years.

"On behalf of the DAP, I congratulate Malaysians all over the country celebrating the 50th anniversary of Merdeka," he said.

"What has to be considered as the basic structure of our society is unity in diversity. As a multiracial, multilingual and multireligious society, each community must be careful not to tread upon each other's sensitivities," he said.

PAS Youth chief Salahuddin Ayub urged youngsters to evaluate themselves when it came to the practices of religion, race and development of the country.

"Decaying moral values and social problems are a disease in the community, and only religion can help overcome the problems among the younger generation," he added.