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Nurturing oneness

The Government is striving for a well-managed polarity

Unity is vital to building a productive and competitive Malaysia and achieving Vision 2020.

While polarities will exist in every society, especially a plural society, the Government is striving for a well-managed polarity - one where the benefits of both extremes are maximised while the disadvantages are minimised.

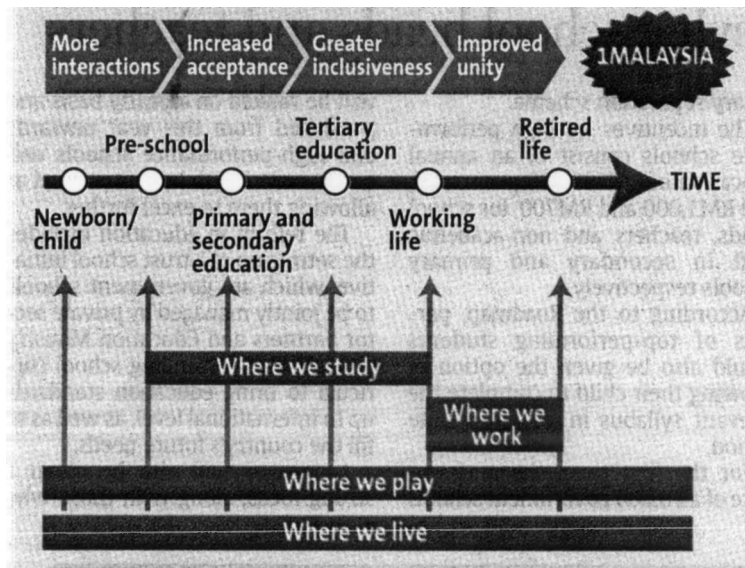
According to the GTP Roadmap, there are two polar approaches to the multi-cultural context of Malaysia - assimilation and segregation.

As ethnic insulation and segregation can occur at all levels, it is imperative to constantly manage the polarity between assimilation and segregation by enlarging the common ground in between by promoting integration through inclusiveness, guided by the principles in the Federal Constitution, Rukun Negara, Vision 2020, National Mission and 1Malaysia.

There is a need to continually remind ourselves to constantly renew and nurture the sense of oneness and unity of purpose as enunciated in 1Malaysia:

- > Inclusiveness;
- > Social justice;

Promote interactions at each stage of individual's lifecycle



- > Basic human, moral and aspirational values; and
 - > People First, Performance Now.
- The Roadmap recognises that while 1Malaysia is an aspiration, the country cannot "leapfrog" to the desired end state, that careful adjust-

ments to maintain peace and harmony will need to be made and that the creativity and spirit of volunteerism of all Malaysians is needed to make this happen.

It describes a "glimpse of the future" in Sabah and Sarawak, where

more than "60 ethnicities and just as many dialects live together and mingle daily. Political, economic and social opportunities are widely available to all, regardless of ethnic, religious, geographical or socio-economic background."

To promote greater interaction, the GTP has come up with initiatives, as solicited from the rakyat, to cover all stages of a person's lifecycle.

One of the steps is to explore and exploit positive factors in Malaysian society, like its diversity.

The proposed ideas to promote more effective inter-ethnic collaboration and unity in the economic area include the following:

- > Formulating a more focused strategy to leverage the diverse linguistic capabilities, cultural connections and religious affiliations of Malaysians;
- > Formulating an effective brain gain strategy;
- > Connecting with and convincing the Malaysian diaspora to invest in Malaysia or to help market Malaysian products and services in their respective countries of residence; and
- > Prohibiting discrimination based on racial attributes or linguistic capabilities in recruitment advertisements.