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# We're ok, right? The answer depends on who you're asking

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## VIEW FROM THE BUNKER

by ZB OTHMAN

**"IS OUR country in trouble?"**

The question took me by surprise because it came from a 17-year-old kid. Usually when I cannot answer any question from a teenager it's about trigonometry, or Zayn Malik or Demi Lovato or Wak Doyok, whatever these things are.

But this time I was stymied

because something significant must be happening to penetrate that self-centred bubble that teenagers usually surround themselves in.

Something must have cropped up so many times in the timelines that she maintained that she was worried about, of all things, the state of our nation.

The short answer that I gave her was that "I don't know," but in reality the answer depends on who we ask.

If you ask Bank Negara Malaysia

(BNM) governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz, she'd say that Malaysia is in good fiscal shape even though Fitch is thinking about a downgrade. Malaysia is still one of the wealth-

*"The whole country seems to be in ennui, mired in the Sargassum and restless from a lack of direction, and lately the complains have been loud and long"*

iest countries in the region. Our economy is not running on all cylinders but, we're okay, right? The prime minister has just said we're looking at a 5.5% growth for 2015 if

we crossed our fingers. Not too bad, right?

If you ask the Inspector General of Police, through Twitter perhaps, he'd probably tweet

that apart from a few nuisance acts of vandalism, all is good. If you ask our moderates movement people they'd say that the country is going to the

dogs because of all these threats to civil liberties.

So the long answer to the question is also a big "I don't know".

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