

## MERDEKA VIDEO MESSAGE

# Respect multiracialism, PM tells youths in video

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called on Malaysians, especially youths, to respect and value the nation's pluralistic society.

He said the most difficult task of being a prime minister was managing multi-ethnic communities, especially in handling sensitive issues among races.

"We are a multiracial nation. We need to be cautious in what we say to ensure that we do not touch on the sensitivity of other races. We should not allow racism to creep into what we do," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this in his special video released in conjunction with the country's 62nd National Day.

The four-minute video on his social media platforms showed a group of enthusiastic youths tak-

ing photographs and coming across him while having a stroll at Putrajaya Lake Park.

Dr Mahathir took the time to answer questions relating to the meaning of independence, his role as a prime minister and the role of youths.

Among the questions posed was why was it important for Malaysians to celebrate the country's independence.

Dr Mahathir replied that independence meant Malaysians were able to determine their own future by putting in the effort to make the country a progressive nation.

The youths also asked why Malaysia was different now than before independence.

"We get to choose our own government. This was different when we were colonised.

"We did not have any say in the ruling of the country. Everything was determined by the colonisers and they did it all for their own interest and nothing for the nation's interest," said Dr Mahathir.

When the youths asked Dr Mahathir on the nation's first Merdeka celebration in 1957, he broke into a wide smile, describing it as "very exciting".

He said it was exciting as Malaysia, or Malaya then, was finally free.

Dr Mahathir was 32 when Malaya gained independence. He is 94 now.

"Tun, do you think we have really achieved independence?" one of the youths asked.

"Yes, of course. But in this generation, we are easily influenced by information we receive due to foreign influence."



Apabila Dr Mahathir ditanya mengenai Merdeka

*A screengrab of Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's video released in conjunction with the country's 62nd National Day.*

Dr Mahathir said Malaysian youths must realise that the nation was a multiracial country and they would always need to integrate.

"We determine a better future for youths. So, youths need to be aware of the situation in the

country. Do not stir anger among each other on purpose," he said.

The video ends with Dr Mahathir saying: "*Mengisi kemerdekaan, lebih sukar dari menuntutnya.* (Fulfilling the real meaning of independence is harder than demanding it).