

# Ten ways to be better Malaysians

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IT would be good if Malaysians could make a pledge to strive to be better persons and subsequently make our beloved nation and the world a better place. For this to happen, Malaysians must be thankful and grateful for what we have.

We are fortunate that we don't face extreme weather nor are we engaged in costly wars. I would also like to think that we have the Covid-19 pandemic under control. Among developing countries, we can be considered as one of the more prosperous ones:

So, let's make the most of what we have. Each and every one of us has an important role to play towards ensuring the peace and stability we are enjoying. Here are what can we do to be better Malaysians:

**Learn to be nice to fellow Malaysians.** Try a little kindness in our daily lives. Learn to touch somebody's heart. Try to answer somebody's prayers today. Do something so that someone will say, "You made my day".

**Learn to do good to others without**

**expecting anything in return.** Give more than we receive and strive to serve the community, such as at places of worship, orphanages, soup kitchens or centres for the disabled, homeless and poor.

**Praise and appreciate others more often.** Smile and greet fellow Malaysians, be they waiters, counter clerks, cashiers, bus drivers, security guards or cleaners. Be cheerful and courteous.

**Treat and respect fellow Malaysians the way we like to be treated.**

**Teach our children and grandchildren to love others regardless of race, skin colour and religion.** We have to unlearn our tendency to make sweeping statements about others and having stereotype predispositions of each race. Mutual respect is of paramount importance.

**Enjoy peace of mind.** Be more forgiving of fellow Malaysians, including our loved ones. If we have anything negative to say to a fellow Malaysian, it's best we don't say it. If you really have to, say the positives first followed by the negatives, but in

a diplomatic way. Learn to disagree and move forward.

**Health is wealth.** We should take care of our health by eating right and exercising regularly, as well as modifying our lifestyle if necessary.

**If we cannot resolve problems, at least try to be part of the solution and not be part of the problem.** Try to minimise complaints or criticisms.

**Learn to praise more often by giving credit where it is due.** Malaysians are shy to say it out loud, but are quick to criticise when something goes wrong. We often praise the person at their funeral; why not when they are still alive?

**Endeavour to waste less food, water and electricity.**

Let's strive to work hard to preserve what we have built up over the last 63 years. Continually exercise tolerance and restraint. Happy Merdeka Day, Malaysia. Proud to be a Malaysian.

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