

# LET'S MAKE COURTESY OUR WAY OF LIFE

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**T**HE lack of courtesy among some Malaysians justifies the need to review efforts to promote courtesy and noble values in line with the fifth tenet of the Rukun Negara.

A review will determine whether our courtesy campaigns have achieved their goals.

Road bullies, traffic-rule breakers, litterbugs and vandals are evidence that Malaysians are far from being courteous and polite.

Inching into the yellow box when the traffic lights have turned red reflects a lack of patience, lack of decorum and selfishness among motorists.

Judging from the deplorable behaviours and attitudes of a substantial number of Malaysians, I have reservations about the effectiveness of the ongoing campaign to promote courtesy and make it a way of life.

The time has come for people to ask whether they have done enough to ensure the success of the cam-



*Rukun Negara expounds on courtesy, politeness, patience, humility, tolerance and respect. FILE PIC*

aign to promote courtesy and noble values among Malaysians.

My observation shows that courtesy, politeness, patience, humility, tolerance and respect, as expounded in the Rukun Negara, have yet to become our way of life.

A lot more remains to be done to inculcate these virtues in Malaysians, particularly the young generation. Many students do not even say "thank you" when an award or

certificate is presented to them.

I had, on several occasions, presented certificates and awards to students to recognise their academic achievements, and they just walk away without saying "thank you".

It's not that I want them to thank me, but as a matter of courtesy, they should have learned such manners at home or school.

It is also common to come across people who drive or park haphazard-

ly on the road, litter in public places, vandalise, jump queues and do not apologise when they make a mistake.

Other issues that need to be addressed include talking rudely to customers, smoking in non-smoking zones, spitting and not giving up their seat to the elderly, disabled and pregnant women on public transport.

Having a campaign to promote courtesy and noble values is important, but what is more essential is to

put them into practise in our lives.

The civil service should promote courtesy among counterstaff dealing with the public, besides practising basic civilities and courtesies, such as responding to calls and replying to letters promptly.

Courtesy campaigns must start from schools to be successful. Moral Education should be reinforced to emphasise the importance of learning and practising noble values taught in schools.

Memorising the noble values for the sake of passing examinations is not desirable.

What we want is for the noble values to be put into practice.

A developed and high-income nation status will be meaningful only if Malaysia inculcates a culture of courtesy and noble values in its people.

Hopefully, the government will step up its efforts towards this goal.

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