

**Malaysia Fortunate For Its Success In Rejecting Communism - Shabery Cheek
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is able to emerge as a peaceful and prosperous nation today because the past leaders who had struggled for independence succeeded in rejecting the communist ideology, said Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

He said there was an attempt to absorb the communist ideology in filling up the post-independence era but this had failed to form a nation based on communism.

He said Malaysians must learn from the experiences of the nations that practiced the communist ideology such as Vietnam, Russia and China which had been proven to experience hardship to the extent that some had rejected and abandoned the ideology.

"We are fortunate because we succeeded in rejecting communism. The date Sept 16 must be perceived from the aspects of light and darkness, the truth versus falsehood, good versus evil," he said at the launch of the Malaysia 50 Years Stamp and First Day Cover at the Pos Malaysia Headquarters, here Wednesday.

Also present were the Secretary-General of the Communications and Multimedia Ministry, Datuk Seri Kamaruddin Siaraf, Group Chief Executive Officer of Pos Malaysia Berhad Datuk Iskandar Mizal Mahmood, Pos Malaysia Berhad Chairman Tan Sri Mohd Khamil Jamil, as well as the Chairman of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) Datuk Shahril Tarmizi.

Ahmad Shabery said it was possible that the bitter experience that affected the growth of the socio-economy, culture and religion as experienced by the countries that had practiced communism could also be faced by this country.

He said history had proven that Malaysia succeeded to achieve growth after independence although many groups had tried to spread their respective ideologies in the country.

"The country became big not through colonisation but through negotiations to the extent that the peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak sat together to form a new entity called Malaysia.

"The intense skill of Tunku Abdul Rahman (Malaysia's first prime minister) turned us into a great nation based on negotiations, friendship, harmony and others," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Shabery praised Pos Malaysia for taking the initiative to issue commemorative stamps with the portrait of Tunku Abdul Rahman in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Malaysia's formation on Sept 16. "When Pos Malaysia immortalizes his portrait on its stamps, I say that the stamps' creator and graphic artist have a deep understanding and observation on the true meaning of Malaysia and independence. Congratulations to Pos Malaysia," he said.

Ahmad Shabery also said that Pos Malaysia was capable of becoming an institution that was not only progressive but could also complement the other methods of communications with commitment and passion from its leaders and staff.

He said the government would continue to assist the organisation, which had a manpower

of about 17,000 who were mostly locals, to continue to achieve success in tandem with the development of technology.

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