

## **WE ARE MALAYSIANS FIRST**

**zahidhamidi.com**

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**By Admin**

Thousands of happy faces greeted me at the Mooncake and Lantern Festival in Kuching, Sarawak yesterday despite several thoughtless postings in the social media calling me as a 'racist'. There were even postings urging Sarawakians not to attend the festival, for I will be officiating it. But Sarawakians prove them wrong, the massive crowd shows that we Malaysians do not easily fall prey to negative influences. We stand united regardless of race and backgrounds. We are able to put politics aside to embrace and celebrate each other's culture and festivals. We are one big family, a family of true Malaysians.

It is the misuse of social media that worries me, of people who manipulate peoples minds, burning fire of hatred through anger and grudge to collapse our nation. Those trying to instill messages of racial hatred like 'anti-malay' or 'anti-peninsula'; they have no concern in seeing us progress as a nation. Such narrow-minded people certainly do not see the beauty of diversity and the power it brings to a nation. Remember, we can be any race or religion, but we are Malaysians first.

I sat at Taman Sahabat, where the function was held, rejoicing and reflecting the spirits of friendship joined by fellow friends who were present at the event. Among them Deputy Home Minister Masir Kujat, Nancy Shukri Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Land Development Minister Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr. James Masing, Housing Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg, Datuk James Chan the MBKS mayor and Temenggong Lu Kim Yong the Chairman of the Federation of Kuching and Samarahan Divisions Chinese Associations.

I must applaud the success of this festival; an amazing gathering connecting thousands of Sarawakians from all walks of life. Truly the colours of Malaysia. Thank you for having me Sarawak, for turning my work visit into moments of enjoyment.

**Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia | Home Minister**

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