

LETTERS

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Long live Malaysia

As a proud moderate Malaysian, I celebrated our 57th Merdeka with gratitude and loyalty to my country Malaysia. I recalled prayerfully how I joined our beloved Tunku Abdul Rahman as a University of Malaya student at the Merdeka Stadium to shout proudly "Merdeka, Merdeka!"

Yesterday (Sunday), I felt good to hear our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak addressing all of us as beloved Malaysians in his live message to the nation.

However, I have to confess that I did not feel the same euphoria on this Merdeka Day as I usually do. Why is this so? I checked with many friends and they share similar sentiments.

I thought the two MAS tragedies had weighed us down. But no. It was the deep feeling of inner frustration and disappointment that Malaysia could have achieved much more in all fields.

Indeed, we could have felt euphoric or just happier, if we did not tolerate so much racial and religious extremism, hate and supremism.

Although as our prime minister stated we have come a long way since Merdeka, we all ask why we have not achieved much more for our people?

For instance, why is there so much lack of success in achieving the government's noble goal of "inclusiveness"?

We should not make the blunder of comparing ourselves to the failed economies but to the obviously highly progressive former developing countries.

The lowest 40% of our population are ironically struggling to make ends meet in a resource blessed economy.

There is so such wastage in inefficiency and corruption that denies more benefits to the poor rakyat.

Yet, some leaders often talk glibly of everyone being happy and "feeling good".

How can our people enjoy declining education standards, high crime rates, rising prices, relatively low incomes?

We even have to endure water shortages in a country blessed with heavy rainfall.

There is therefore this growing perception of weakening government institutions that must be rapidly addressed to raise public confidence in promoting good governance.

The Merdeka celebration at Dataran Merdeka was impressive. But sadly, it could have been much more inclusive.

There was hardly any attempt to show us all and the world at large that we are, after all, a proud and relatively successful and peaceful multiracial and multi-religious developing nation.

So please tell us how are we to build national unity, if we become more parochial, and exclusive in our social economic, racial and religious policies and practices?

On our 57th Merdeka Anniversary, we have to, as our prime minister has said, "determine the next course for our beloved Malaysia".

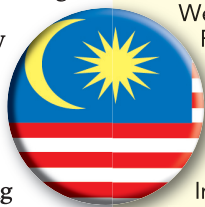
We all must resolve to strengthen our fading Merdeka Spirit. And our government must decide to strongly lead the way forward from now, please.

Long live Malaysia!
Merdeka!
Hidup Malaysia!

Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam
Chairman
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In memory of MH17

IN the light of day
In the dim of night
The call of duty doesn't simply put away
But taken to heart and carried on with all might.



We are no(t) blind and we care
Regardless the fuss and fight – the grudges and the dissatisfied
We fear not the ruthlessness of men of the day
We must fear most the condescending scalpel of Justice Knight
In our due time – we will pay – as to what we do to others
At this very time – we pray – in the light of circumstances – the most difficult and the hardest.

MH17 was never a near-miss accident
She was never an intended incident to break the silence
She was flying beautifully in great confidence till all of the sudden
It was too fast and too late to recall the spell of prominent disaster
Lost in the whirl of her destiny – at the cost of undue hatred that might matter
She will remain a major unrecovered scar of human history – ever.

Y E T . . .

Has anyone heard of her urgent call of 'May Day?' or she just simply lost her way
Into the unshakeable pride and deplorable ignorance of sovereign nations
Who depreciates the value of lives and tags a high price on arrogance
So cheap such morality or have they any!
So creepy it can be when sovereignty became fallen angel of hades
So deeply hurt the fine line of dignity but we are no(t) sadists
We will wait for the truth of the matter to be uncovered!
We will wait for the message of justice to be delivered!

She caused no trouble but caught in the middle
Till she became the ruin of humanity
And became the game of scrutiny in the name of security
And became the fame of all intelligence and shame of the military

Or did she become the panacea of dissensions?
A quick fix of war-torn nations – between friend and foe!
Or is it worth it! To annihilate the innocence!
Why should she pay for the price of such cruelty and all?
Why should she be targeted by such indecent aim and take the fall?
She did no wrong but unwillingly went down in all meekness
Defenceless in the embrace of 298 lives and souls in all helplessness
It was the end of the road yet a beginning of new life!

Descended till the abyss of the light tunnel place of clear presence danger
Ascended into the heavens by shed of tears and bountiful prayers
They will all settle down in the new home of all nations
In the hope that we shall repent from all our iniquities and greed
In the hope that we shall proclaim the ALMIGHTY's greatest good deed

GOODBYE MY FRIENDS AND MY ALL . . .
The whole world may have lost YOU!
But your memory shall remain forever! – This is so true!
In the loving hearts of your loved ones so blue
Shall YOU rest in peace – In love and prayers of all believers of all creeds!
You were everything and will always be missed!
Indeed!

Gabriel K. Wing
Miri

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• Live home screen with HTC BlinkFeed™



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• Large 5.5" screen



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