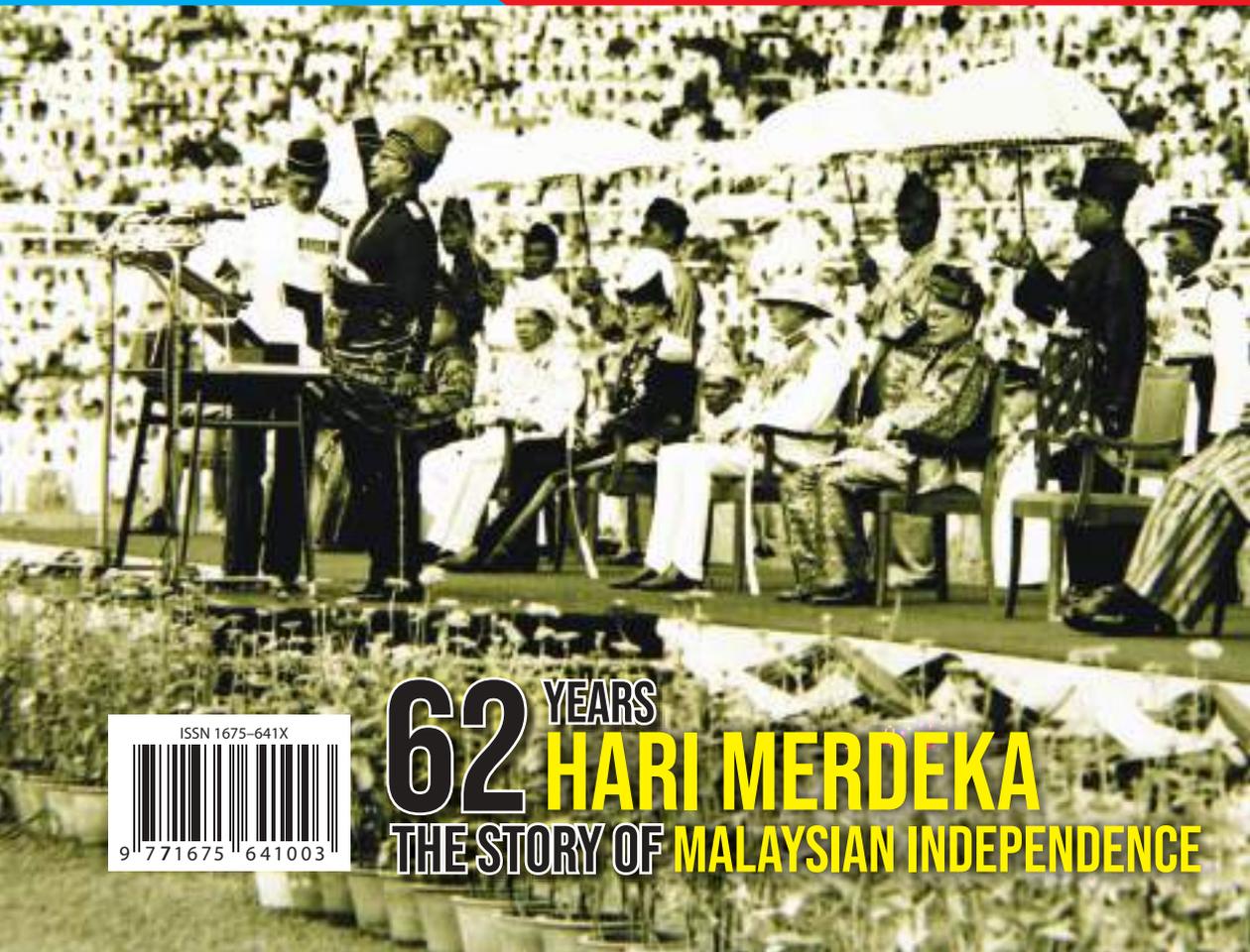


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# MALAYSIA FOCUS

▶ VOL: 2/2019

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**62** YEARS  
**HARI MERDEKA**  
**THE STORY OF MALAYSIAN INDEPENDENCE**

☒ **FEATURE**

Importance of national unity and the role of moderation

☒ **FASCINATING FACTS**

Flying the flag? History behind the flag of Malaysia

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## CHIEF EDITOR'S NOTE

The 14th General Election (GE14) is now over and now it is time to move on with nation building and the country's development which has been the cornerstone of Pakatan Harapan political philosophy.

Now under the leadership of Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad as Malaysia's seventh Prime Minister we continue to raise high the country's banner of co-operative peace and shared prosperity. It is time for everyone in the country to work closely in solving various issues to ensure the country prosperity.

This year, as Malaysia turns 62, let us celebrate this festive day by waving the Jalur Gemilang which is a symbol of sovereignty and grandeur of country. This is the second issue for the year under the new Pakatan Harapan coalition and we are bringing you back to the history of how Malaysia obtained its Independence.

Themed "Sayangi Malaysiaku : Malaysia Bersih" let us all shout with joy Merdeka! Merdeka! Merdeka! with a renewed motivation and a stronger resolve to make Malaysia a great place to call home.

Being a multiracial, multi-ethnic and multireligious with colourful and varied cultural background, let us make this diversity be our strength and fortitude.

I am amazed at how quickly the months has pass by. In this light, we have worked on a line-up of features and spreads that we hope will add punch and put colour to your reading. We beckon you to slow down, step back and capture the fascinating facts about Malaysia.

If your days were as exciting and eventful as ours, we should be anticipating the remaining of this year with equal relish. Explore the deep symbolism and connections that colours share with humans and the civilizations they have created since time immemorial.

We will definitely be hosting more events where we can connect and engage with all the readers of Malaysia Focus on a regular basis, to promote the policies and national agenda to ensure it is understood, supported, appreciated and assimilated, cultivated and practised by the citizens.

We hope you got a glimpse into the interesting history of Malaysia!

Join us as we take you on a journey across the boundaries of countries, cultures and traditions using colours!

**If you would like to join us, do drop us an email. We would love to say hi. Enjoy the issue!**

**Happy Merdeka Day and Happy Malaysia Day!**

*Wan Azizah Wan Omar*

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MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA MALAYSIA

*Welcome*

**YBHG. DATO' SURIANI BINTI DATO' AHMAD**

SECRETARY-GENERAL

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA MALAYSIA

1 JULY 2019

*Heartiest  
Congratulations*

To

**YBRS. PUAN ROSELINDAWATI BINTI ABDUL RAHMAN**

On The Appointment As  
**DIRECTOR - GENERAL**

**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION MALAYSIA**

8 JULY 2019



# HARI MERDEKA : THE STORY OF MALYSIAN INDEPENDENCE

Hari Merdeka (Independence Day) is a national day of Malaysia commemorating the Independence of the Federation of Malaya from British colonial rule in 1957, celebrated on August 31 each year. The country has enjoyed Independence for 62 years, of which the 2019 National Day Celebration mark the second time it is being celebrated under the New Pakatan Harapan coalition.

Malacca will witness the celebration this year under the leadership of Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia. To mark this historic event to reminisce the sacrifice and valour of the ancestors and revered patriots, there are various occasions lined up to honour such patriotism spirit.

## MALAYSIA The Fight for Independence

1945

**15 August 1945**

After Japan surrendered on 15 August 1945 when Hiroshima and Nagasaki was bombed, the colonial British returned to Malaya with the intention of making Malaya as its colony.



**22 February 1946**

The official handover of power by the Japanese to English was made in Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur.



Malayan Union was formed

1957

**30 August 1957**

Crowds gathered at the Royal Selangor Club Padang in Kuala Lumpur to witness the handover of power from British.



**At the stroke of midnight**

On the strokes of midnight, the lights were switched on!

**31 August 1957**

More than 20,000 people witnessed the ceremony which began at 9.30 am. Those attendance included rulers of the Malay states, foreign dignitaries, members of the federal cabinet and citizens.



**TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN**

The word MERDEKA was chanted seven times by Tunku Abdul Rahman followed the crowd joining in

1963

**16 September 1963**

Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore and Malaya were merged and MALAYSIA was formed.

**A Significant Day**

This marked the end of a 144-year period of British rule in Singapore, beginning with the founding of modern Singapore by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1819.



**TODAY** 16 September, which is now called Malaysia Day is declared as a public holiday.

**MALAYSIA**

**7 August 1965**

Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman, advised the Parliament of Malaysia that it should vote to expel Singapore from Malaysia. On that day, a tearful Lee Kuan Yew announced that Singapore was a sovereign, independent nation and assumed the role of prime minister of the new nation

BON VOYAGE!

SINGAPORE

**SINGAPORE LEFT ALLIANCE ON 9 AUGUST 1965**

TODAY

**MENARA KL** is one of the tallest concrete tower in the world standing at 421m and built with 45,000 cubic metres of sturdy concrete.

**MALAYSIA** today has been a successful developing country and is forging ahead to become a developed nation in its own mould.

**PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS** were the tallest building in the world from 1998 to 2004 until it surpassed by Taipei 101.



# Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj:

## Father of Independence



### 1903 - BIRTH

Tunku Abdul Rahman, the seventh prince of Sultan Abdul Hamid Shah, was born in Alor Setar on 8 February

### 1909 - EDUCATION

Tunku had his early education in Sekolah Rendah Melayu in Jalan Baharu before attending the Government English School (later known as Sultan Abdul Hamid College) two years later, the state's only English school then.

### 1913 - BANGKOK

Tunku moved to Bangkok with his eldest brother, Tunku Yusuf, who served the Royal Thai Military Force. There, Tunku attended Debsirin High School. Tunku Yusuf was killed by bandits two years later. After the death of his brother, Tunku returned to Malaya and studied at Penang Free School.



### 1920 - CAMBRIDGE

Tunku received the first Kedah state scholarship to further his studies at Cambridge University. He gained admittance to St. Catherine's College.

### 1925 - GRADUATION

Tunku returned to Alor Setar after he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Law & History from the University of Cambridge.

**BACK TO ENGLAND**- Tunku was ordered to return to England to gain admittance to the Bar.

1930

### 1931 - KEDAH CIVIL SERVICE

After failing part one of the Bar, Tunku returned to Malaya and served the Kedah Civil Service as a cadet in the Legal Advisor's Office.

### 1932 - KUALA NERANG

Tunku was posted to Kuala Nerang as its District Officer in 1932.

**MARRIAGE** - Tunku met Chong Ah Yong, who later changed her name to Meriam Abdullah when she converted to Islam. Tunku married Meriam who bore him two children, Tunku Khatijah and Tunku Ahmad Nerang.

### 1933 - WIFE'S DEATH

Meriam contracted malaria in Kuala Nerang and died a month after the birth of Tunku Ahmad Nerang.

### 1935 - 2<sup>ND</sup> MARRIAGE

Tunku married Violet Coulson, an English lady. Soon after, Tunku was transferred to Langkawi as District Officer. Unfortunately, the marriage did not last and Tunku and Ms Coulson separated, then divorced.

### 1938 - STUDIES, INTERRUPTED

Tunku returned to London and passed part one of the Bar examination. However, he was recalled to Malaya as there was news of impending war.

### 1939 - 3<sup>RD</sup> MARRIAGE

Tunku married Sharifah Rodziah, the daughter of Syed Alwi Barakbah of Alor Setar, and with her, adopted three children: Faridah, Sulaiman and Mariam.



1940



### 1941 - SEBERKAS

The Japanese attacked Kedah and Penang. Tunku reluctantly served as interpreter between the Japanese and the local government. Outside of work, Tunku and friends set up "Saberkas", a welfare group that collected money and food for survivors of the notorious death railway the Japanese were building from Thailand to Burma.



### 1943 - FATHER'S DEATH

Tunku was appointed as Superintendent of Education for Kedah. In May, his father, the Sultan of Kedah, passed away.

### 1945 - WAR ENDS

The war ended. In Malaya, the British colonialists proposed the "Malayan Union" which Tunku and many other Malays strongly opposed.

### 1946 - MALAYAN UNION

The Malayan Union was established on 1 April 1946. An All-Malay Congress opposing the Malayan Union took place in Kuala Lumpur. With the political landscape in Malaya shifting, Tunku decided to return to England to complete his law studies. Tunku passed his Bar exams in 1948 at the age of 46.

### 1948 - UNION DISSOLVED

On 1 February 1948, after strong and sustained protests from the Malay community, the Malayan Union was dissolved and replaced by the Federation of Malaya.



### EMERGENCY

On 16 June, a state of emergency was declared after three European plantation managers were killed in Sungai Siput, Perak by the Malayan Communist Party, led by Chin Peng.

### 1949 - UMNO KEDAH

Tunku returned to Malaya and was appointed as the Chairman of UMNO Kedah. He was also appointed as a Sessions Court Judge.



1950

### 1951 - UMNO PRESIDENT

Dato' Onn Jaafar resigned as President of UMNO to set up the multi-racial Independence of Malaya Party (IMP) and Tunku was persuaded to run for party President. He won and became the new President of UMNO.

### 1953 - JOINING CABINET

Tunku joined the Cabinet as an Official Member. In February 1953, the first national convention gathered representatives from all over Malaya as well as six political parties, including UMNO, MCA, and the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (later to become PAS).

### 1954 - NEGOTIATIONS

Tunku negotiated terms for the first Federal Elections to be held on 27 July 1955.

### 1955 - 1<sup>ST</sup> FEDERAL ELECTIONS

The Alliance won in a landslide victory in July 1955 and Tunku became the first Chief Minister of Malaya as well as its Home Minister. He was determined to lead Malaya to Independence within four years of the Federal Elections.

### MALAY RULERS; BALING TALKS

In September, Tunku met with the Malay rulers to reassure them that their positions would not be affected after Independence. In December, Tunku and Chin Peng met in Baling talks to discuss terms of amnesty for the Malaya Communist Party. The negotiations failed.



### 1956 - MALAYA TREATY

In January, Tunku led a delegation to London to negotiate for Independence. A month later, the Independence of Malaya Treaty was signed and 31 August 1957 became the date for Malaya Independence.

### 31 AUGUST; ANNOUNCEMENT

Tunku announced the date at a rally in Malacca upon his return. In June, Tunku took on additional portfolios as the Defence and Internal Securities Minister of Malaya.



### 1957 - MERDEKA

31 August: Malaya gained Independence and became known as the Malay Federation or Persekutuan Tanah Melayu.

### HISTORIC OCCASION

A historic ceremony took place at Stadium Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur to declare the nation's Independence. Tunku Abdul Rahman became the first Prime Minister of Malaya.

**1959 - ALLIANCE ELECTORAL WINS**

At the Federal Election, the first since Independence, the Alliance won 74 of the 103 seats contested.



**1960 - END OF MALAYAN EMERGENCIES**

The Malaysian Emergency ended in 1960.

1960

**1961 - MALAYSIA : A PROPOSAL**

Tunku proposed the idea of "Malaysia" comprising the Malay Federation, Singapore, Brunei, Sabah and Sarawak.

**SINGAPORE AGREES TO JOIN** - In August, Malaya and Singapore (represented by Lee Kuan Yew) agreed on merger terms. Brunei pulled out due to internal revolt to the proposal.

**1962 - COBBOLD COMMISSION**

In January, the Cobbold Commission was established to gauge the response of East Malaysians to the proposed "merger" with Malaya.

**SABAH & SARAWAK IN FAVOUR** - The Cobbold Commission held 50 hearings in 35 centres and listened to the views of over 4,000 people. It found that roughly two-thirds of the population of Sabah and Sarawak were in favour of Malaysia.



**1963 - MALAYSIA : AGREEMENT SIGNED**

In July, Tunku signed a formal agreement for the setting up of Malaysia in Marlborough House, London.

**MALAYSIA IS FORMED**  
16 September 1963: Malaysia was officially formed.



**1964 - BIG WIN FOR ALLIANCE**

The Alliance won big in the 1964 General Election - securing 89 out of the 104 seats in Federal Parliament, 15 seats more than in 1959. However, the first signs of trouble were brewing between the Alliance leaders and Lee Kuan Yew of the People's Action Party (PAP) Singapore.

**PAP LOSES** - On his campaigns, Lee Kuan Yew put forward the idea of a "Malaysian Malaysia" - one where the special status of Malays and Bumiputeras would not be recognised. PAP won only one seat and failed to displace MCA as the party representing Chinese interests.



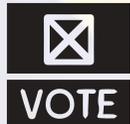
**1965 - BUMIPUTRA ECONOMIC CONGRESS**

In May, the first Bumiputra Economic Congress was held. Following that Congress, Bank Bumiputra was established with Tunku Razaleigh Hamzah as its Executive Director.  
**SINGAPORE SECEDED** - On the 9 August, Singapore seceded from Malaysia. Tunku declared the separation in Parliament, stating that Singapore had failed "to give even a measure of loyalty to the Central Government."



**1967 - ASEAN**

In August, ASEAN was born consisting of Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippine and Thailand.  
**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE** - In September, Bahasa Malaysia was declared as the Official Language of Malaysia.



**1969**

**GENERAL ELECTIONS** - In May, the 1969 General Elections were held. The results indicated dissatisfaction, particularly among the Malays, with the ruling government. The Alliance only won 76 seats with 37 seats captured by the opposition parties.

**INTERNAL CRITICS** - Tunku faced a very critical faction in UMNO who wanted him to resign, a faction he labelled as "Ultras".  
**13 MAY 1969** - On 13 May, unresolved tension between the Chinese and the Malays led to a racial riot in Kuala Lumpur. It was estimated that more than a hundred people died, with more than 300 people injured. On 14 May, a state of emergency was declared by the government. Tunku set up a National Operation Council (NOC) with Tun Abdul Razak as the Director.

VOTE

1970



**1970 - RESIGNATION**

Tunku announced his resignation as Prime Minister of Malaysia on 31 August 1970. On 21 September, he was succeeded by Tun Abdul Razak Hussein.

**1971 - SEC-GEN OF THE OIC**

Tunku became the first Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), at the invitation of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia.

**1974 - CHAIRING THE STAR**

Tunku took up a stake in The Star and became its Chairman in 1974. He also became one of its most famous columnists, writing weekly for the "Looking Back" (and later "As I See it") columns which boosted the circulation of the newspaper. He remained with The Star until his death.



**1975 - SETTING UP THE IDB**

Tunku helped establish the Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

1980

**1983 - HIJRAH AWARD**

For his contributions to Islam, Tunku Abdul Rahman shared the King Faisal Award with Egypt's Hasanein M. Makhlof. He was also the first recipient of the Pakistani Hijrah Award.



**1983 - AUSTRALIA AWARD**

The Australian government bestowed Tunku Abdul Rahman the Companion of the Order of Australia Award "for service to Australian/Malaysian relations."



1990

**1990 - DEATH**

On 6 December 1990, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj passed away at the Kuala Lumpur General Hospital at the age of 87. He was subsequently laid to rest at the Royal Mausoleum of Alor Setar.



# FLYING THE FLAG? History behind the flag of Malaysia



MOHAMED BIN HAMZAH, The Creator

The Federation Legislation Council organized a nationwide competition in 1949 to select the rightful flag to represent the newly formed Federation of Malaya. On 15 November 1949 a report was prepared by the committee and submitted to Federal Legislative Council. From 373 types of flag design, only three flags were forwarded to the Malay rulers to be selected.

The first design featured 11 five-pointed stars with an image of a double crossed daggers (keris) icon in the middle. The second was almost similar except the 11 five-pointed stars were arranged in a concentric circle, surrounding the double crossed daggers. The final design was an 11 striped blue-white with a star and crescent in white on the left.

The Federation Legislation Council invited the public to give their opinions about the 3 final designs. A local newspaper, The Malay Mail, organized the public opinion poll. The results were published on the 28th November 1949, and based upon the majority votes; the winner was the design of the third flag which was submitted by Mohamed Hamzah, a government architect from Johor.

Nevertheless, there were several amendments done on the design whereby the crescent and star that were originally white in colour was changed to a yellow colour to symbolise the royal colour and received the approval of the Royal Council on 22 and 23 February 1950.

On the 19th April 1950, the Federal Legislative Council approved a motion proposed by the Acting Chief Secretary on the flag design as presented below;

“That in the opinion of this Council, the Flag of the Federation of Malaya should be as follows:- Eleven horizontal stripes alternately red and white in colour, the uppermost stripe being red, having a blue quarter with a crescent and eleven-pointed star in yellow superimposed, the standard size of the flag to be six feet by three feet.”

The flag design had obtained the approval from King George VI on 19 May 1950. It was the first time Federation of Malaya flag was raised in an official procession, which was organized by the British High Commission on the 26th May 1950, within the confines of the Sultan Selangor’s palace that was attended by the D.Y.M.M Raja-Raja Melayu and the royal officers of King George VI.

After the formation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963, the flag was modified to reflect and honour the new states in the federation. Three stripes were added to the existing flag and the star was given 14 points with the inclusion of Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore into the Federation of Malaya.

The flag of Malaysia is named Jalur Gemilang (Stripes of Glory). It was named in 1997 by Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohammad, who was then Prime Minister. He declared the name representing Malaysia’s goal to strive for progress and success.

Source: Malaysia 2018 (Department of Information)



# FLAG SEQUENCE BY PRIORITY

1 MALAYSIA	2 TERENGGANU	3 PERLIS
4 SELANGOR	5 NEGERI SEMBILAN	6 JOHOR
7 KELANTAN	8 PERAK	9 KEDAH
10 PAHANG	11 PENANG	12 MALACCA
13 SABAH	14 SARAWAK	15 FEDERAL TERRITORIES

Source: Ceremonial and International Conference Secretariat Division

Here are the

# 10 THINGS

you can (or cannot) do  
with our beloved flag:

## CAN | CANNOT

Every citizen has the right to fly the Jalur Gemilang, however it must be in accordance to the guideline given. The flag can also be flown all year round, and not just in August, as long as it is flown appropriately and respectfully.

It is not advisable to turn the Jalur Gemilang into clothes except during National Day month (August) and even then, the duration of use should be limited.

The flag can be used in various styles for the purpose of promoting National Day celebrations, as long as the creativity in use does not translate to insulting the flag.

The Jalur Gemilang cannot be used in a manner that demeans the flag, for instance as tablecloth, hijab, umbrella, songkok, hat, towel, cushion cover etc.

You can fly the Jalur Gemilang on your car but make sure it is done in such a way that will not endanger other road users, such as installing the flag on a long pole that is attached to your vehicle.

It is wrong to use the Jalur Gemilang as part of your company or product's logo unless you have a written permission from a minister. Take note that failure to obtain approval, you can be charged.

You can burn a 'sick' flag but it cannot be done in public. Because flags can't be thrown into the dustbin, burning a shabby flag is allowed as long as it is not done openly.

Flying a shabby or a 'sick' flag is deemed inappropriate.

The Jalur Gemilang can be used to cover coffins to honour those who served the country, including Malaysian ambassadors who pass away overseas, police and armed forces personnel who were killed in the line of duty, among others.

If you're wearing a hat and you are in a situation where you have to stand in respect of the flag, you must not keep your hat on your head. Take the hat off and hold it over your left chest with your right hand. However, if you're wearing a songkok with a baju Melayu, there is no need to take the songkok off. All you have to do is stand straight with hands at your sides.

## Bunga Raya: How It Became Malaysia's National Flower

By Cadence Cheah



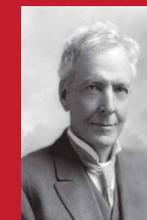
In 1958, a year after Malaysians shouted "Merdeka!" for the first time, the Ministry of Agriculture invited proposals for a national flower from all state governments.

Seven flowers were proposed, including hibiscus (Bunga Raya), ylang ylang (Bunga Kenanga), jasmine (Bunga Melur), magnolia (Bunga Cempaka), lotus (Bunga Teratai), rose (Bunga Mawar) and medlar (Bunga Tanjung).

The rose was preferred by those living on the East Coast, while those in the West Coast were partial to the jasmine. After careful consideration, then Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj declared the hibiscus, or more specifically its subspecies *Hibiscus rosa-sinesis*, as the national flower on 28 July 1960.

The vibrant colours of the flower made it stand out; it also symbolised the courage and vitality of the people

The five conspicuous petals of the flower also fit well with the five principles of the National Principles.



**American botanist Luther Burbank once wrote:**

Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul

Apart from those reasons, the flower was commonly seen all over the country, blooming all day long and decorating the fences of many households.

While the hibiscus *syracus* is South Korea's national flower and the yellow hibiscus is Hawaii's state flower, *hibiscus rosa-sinesis* was chosen for the newly-independent Malaya.

Named Bunga Raya, with *raya* meaning celebratory or grand, the flower literally means "celebratory flower", to reflect the celebration of unity in a multicultural nation.

More than just a national symbol, the flower can be made into a tea that is said to help reduce high blood pressure. The flower is commonly used to treat hair loss by Ayurveda physicians in India, and its roots are used as an aperitif and tonic.

**NEGARAKU  
TANAH TUMPAHNYA DARAHKU  
RAKYAT HIDUP  
BERSATU DAN MAJU  
RAHMAT BAHAGIA  
TUHAN KURNIAKAN  
RAJA KITA  
SELAMAT BERTAKHTA**

## The Origins of Negaraku

The national song was created in 1957 and the selection of the song was made by former Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj. The rhythm of "Negaraku" was quoted from the rhythm of the state anthem of Perak. The state anthem of Perak was inspired by the song "Terang Bulan", which is a song favoured by Sultan Abdullah, the Sultan of Perak, while he was in exile on the island of Seychelles. "Negaraku" emphasises loyalty and unity for national progress. This song serves the purpose to inculcate the spirit of patriotism and love for the homeland. The idea to create the national anthem arose when the country was then preparing to celebrate its Independence Day. The national anthem should be played during the proclamation of Independence which was set on 31 August 1957.

Thus, in February 1957, an official anthem creation contest was held. However, the four final songs were rejected by the Special Committee of the National Anthem Selection (JKPLK), led by Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj. Tunku instead recommended the state anthem of Perak as the basis for creating a national anthem of Malaysia. The proposal had been agreed by the other members of JKPLK. The music score for Negaraku was provided by Alfonso Soliano (Leader of the Radio Orchestra of Malaya), D.S.P Croff (Music Director, the Royal Police Band), Captain Lenthall (Music Director, the Malay Military Band, Port Dickson) and A.T. Reed (General Director of Radio Malaya). The lyrics were written by a Special Committee headed by Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, with the consent of the Malay Sultans.

The national anthem, "Negaraku" was heard for the first time on the stroke of midnight on 31 August 1957, at the Selangor Club field. That historical evening witnessed the Union Jack was lowered and replaced with the flag of the Federation of Malaya, accompanied by the national anthem "Negaraku". Starting from this moment, the song "Negaraku" continued to be the national anthem.

Source: Malaysia 2018 (Department of Information)

## The formation of National Principles

The National Principles was declared on 31 August 1970 to commemorate the 13th Independence Day celebration by His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong Almarhum Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin, Yang di-Pertuan Agong IV. It was introduced following the 13 May 1969 incident which weakened unity among the races in Malaysia. The National Principles was formed with the main purpose of shaping a strong unity. The principles contained clearly the key to harmony and unity for the sake of the success and stability of the country. It was divided into two parts:

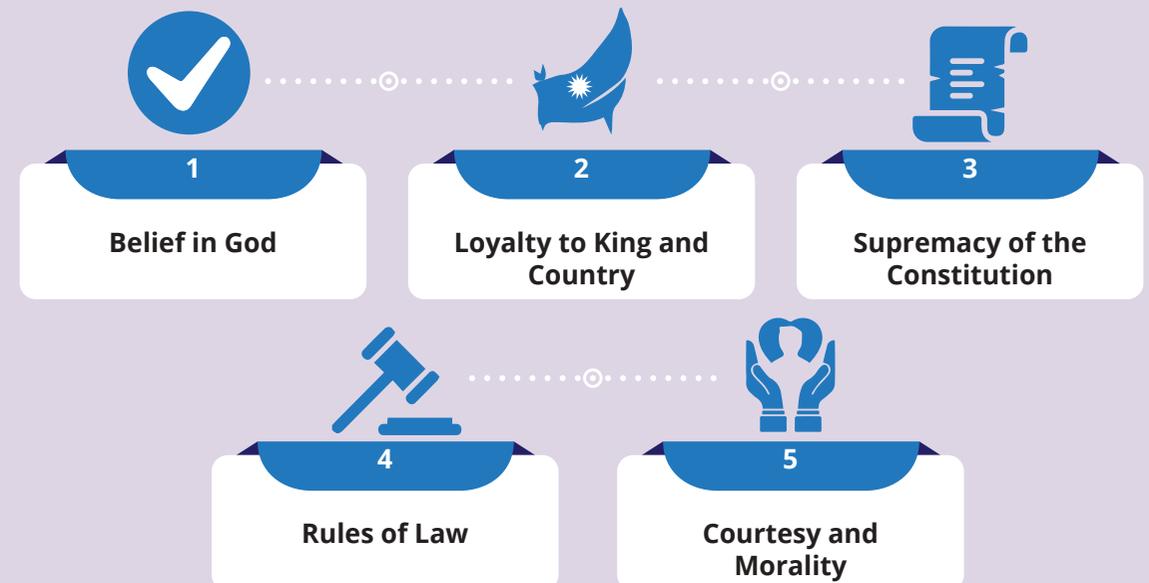
### Part One

Outline the desired social objectives:

- ✓ Achieving and fostering better unity amongst the society;
- ✓ Preserving a democratic way of life;
- ✓ Creating a just society where the prosperity of the country can be enjoyed together in a fair and equitable manner;
- ✓ Ensuring a liberal approach towards the rich and varied cultural traditions and
- ✓ Building a progressive society that will make use of science and modern technology.

### Part Two

Outline the Five National Principles:



Source: Malaysia 2018 (Department of Information)

# NATIONAL DAY LOGO COLLECTION



1976



1977



1978



1979



1980



1981



1982



1983



1984



1985



1986



1987



1988



1989



1990



1991



1992



1993



1994



1995



1996



1997



1998



1999



2000-2006



*Bersama SAMA MELAKSANAKAN TRANSFORMASI*  
2007



2008



RAKYAT DIDAHULUKAN  
PENCAPAIAN DITAMAKAN  
2009



MENJANA  
TRANSFORMASI  
2010



TRANSFORMASI BERJAYA  
RAKYAT SEJAHTERA  
2011



2012



2013



2014



2015



2016-2017



2018

**Sayangi  
Malaysiaku**  
**Malaysia Bersih**  
2019



I'm grateful to call this country as my homeland. This year, Malaysia celebrates its 62 years Independence Day and I wish Malaysia to maintain its melting pot of cultures, traditions galore, multi-ethnicity, unique diverse heritage, language, places, and food. I love it. Happy Merdeka, guys!

**Mohamad Akmal Hisyam**  
Mechanical Technician, Pengerang Refining and Petrochemical (PrefChem)

"I am Malaysian because I was born here and fortunately I feel blessed. I can't go two sentences without saying "lah", "mah", or "(can) what" because our self-deprecating humour when it comes to different race. I can't imagine a world without teh tarik, roti canai, papadoms, bah kut teh, or nasi lemak. I'm proud to call myself a Malaysian.

Happy Independence Day, Malaysia!"

**Vivian Saw Hui Ming**

Retail Associates, Charles and Keith, Jurong East Mall Singapore



"I'm Malaysian because I love it. I love the country, I love the people, I love how everything works – it inspires me. I want to raise my flag high! 62 years and still going strong. Happy National Day, Malaysia!"

**Khavhesha A/P Nuniswaran**  
Year 3 Student, SJKT Jasin Melaka



"Malaysia is a great place to live. I've had friends come out here and they love it! In fact, they end up staying far too long. Everybody I know who has been to Malaysia loves it – and it's for good reasons. We are a nation united at the end of the day.

Malaysia always holds a special place in my heart. Happy Merdeka to all you proud Malaysians!"

**Suriyati Abdul Hamid**  
Pensioner



"I love Malaysia because it's a place I call home. Family, friends, and of course the amazing food. Thank you Malaysia for letting me eat well! I travel quite a lot, but I must say nothing comes close like Malaysia. Happy Merdeka Day, my fellow Malaysians!"

**Sabrina Seow Yoke Fong**  
Promoter, Blackmores

"Merdeka has now become ever more meaningful. As we celebrate our beloved nation's 62th Birthday, we will strengthen our spirit, we will anchor deeper our hopes, we will resolve even more to move onward and forward with the spirit of Malaysia Baharu under Pakatan Harapan that has accompanied us this far. We thrive. We grow. We flourish. Happy 62th Birthday, Malaysia!"

**Sarawanan Vellachamy**  
Senior Supervisor, Golden Screen Cinema



# How Malaysia and other country celebrate their National Day

By Sofie Ford



With 62th Malaysia Independence Day just around the corner, the country is gearing up to celebrate the day the country finally broke free from two centuries of British colonial rule in 1957.

31 August is an opportunity for us all to honour one of the world's most culturally diverse countries, with colourful celebrations, grand parades and glorious food! On this day each year, Malaysians from all backgrounds, race and religion join together as a united nation to rejoice in the positive aspects of Malaysia.

Below is an overview of how countries from around the world celebrate their national day:



1. India

Salman Rushdie relates the story of India's transition from British colonialism to independence in his novel "Midnight's Children". On this very special day, India rejoices in the birth of their nation. After the flag has been raised above the walls of Red Fort, the Prime Minister proudly recounts the country's achievements of that year and announced his plans for the future.

**Independence Year : 15 August 1947**



3. South Korea

A sole day does not suffice to celebrate the Independence of a country with such an intricate political history; in South Korea, there are three!

**Year : 1 March 1919, Independence of Modern Korea; 15 August 1948, Gwangbokjeol (Independence from Japan); 3 October 2333BC, Gaecheonjeol (National Foundation Day)**



2. Greece

25 March marks the start of the War of Greek Independence. The festivities involve lots of colourful religious celebrations as this date coincides with the Festival of the Annunciation, when angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she would bare the son of God. Greek Orthodox churches hold special services and TV channels play old wartime movies to commemorate heroic acts. Travellers unaware of this important day can find themselves a little flustered, as everything shuts down, from transport to shops and eateries.

**Independence Year: 25 March 1821**



4. Canada

Although for most Canadians, 1 July is a hugely important day, packed with fun and laughter, music concerts, maritime shows and parading around in the colours of their country, the francophone communities of Canada take little interest, preferring to celebrate St Jean Baptiste day on 24 June. 1 July is also known as Canada Day.

**Independence Year: 1 July 1867**



5. The USA

It's hard to believe that such a powerful country spend so many years under the rule of others. Ever since the British retreated home to their little island, the Fourth of July has become one of the biggest festivities of the year. With a focus on family get-togethers, carnivals, baseball and all things American, the great USA honour their great nation with gusto.

**Independence Year: 4 July 1776**



7. Germany

German Unity Day is their only federal, national holiday; all other public holidays are decided upon by the individual states. The day is celebrated with speeches, concerts, communal meals and food and culture presentations. The colours of the German flag represent their fight for independence; black symbolizes the 'darkness of servitude', red for 'bloody conflict' and gold to represent the 'light of freedom'.

**Independence Year: 3 October 1990**



6. France

Bastille Day commemorates the storming of Bastille during the French Revolution in order to free prisoners. This medieval fortress only held seven inmates at the time, however, it symbolised defiance against an abusive monarchy: an image which remains strong today. On this day, there are many exciting military parades where you can see cadets, infantry soldiers and motorized troops, with displays by aircraft acrobatic teams swooping above. It is also tradition for France to invite its allies to join the parade.

**Independence Year: 14 June 1789**



8. China

National Day in China marks the beginning of one of two 'Golden Weeks', the second of which being around the Lunar New Year. A week running up to the festival, public spaces are transformed with bright and festive decorations and portraits of revered leaders, such as Mao Zi Dong, are displayed. Red Chinese lanterns line the streets, a symbol of happiness and fortune. During this week, those working in major cities return home to countryside to celebrate with their families, one of the few occasions each year when they are able to make the trip.

**Independence Year: 1 October 1949**

# Importance of National Unity and The Role Of Moderation

By Alvan Ong Zhi Xian

The nation of unity is no stranger to states far and wide, let alone Malaysia – a country endowed with descendants from three of the earliest civilizations. With deliberate segregation of the populace under the façade of “specialization”- courtesy of our colonial masters, ethnic strains have long been engrained into Malaysia’s past. In light of that, efforts to bridge this ethnic divide since its independence reflects the wide-spread recognition of the need for national unity in Malaysia.

National unity is defined as solidarity within citizens of a nation, with minimum sectorial practices and close adherence to law and order. National unity however, do not imply homogeneity. It advocates rather, a “community of communities” which respect diversity and share values, experiences and geographical relativity (Etzioni, 2002).

Firstly, national unity in the form of racial and religious tolerance is an incremental pre-requisite to societal peace.

Indeed, India - the second most intolerant nation, according to a research done by the World Value Survey, ranked 139 out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index (GPI) (Fisher, 2013).

Since Malaysia accommodates citizens with diverse physical appearances, the case of India is a glaring illustration of the peril of racial discrimination and tension. Similarly, the notorious discrimination of Rohingyas in Buddhist-majority Myanmar reflects a negative association between religious tensions and peace, with Myanmar ranking 122 in the GPI – once again analogous to the diverse religious composition of Malaysia and the potential havoc that could arise in the event of disunity.

To reiterate, national unity is essential in maintaining a harmonious and functional society. Consequently, national unity and subsequently societal stability contributes to nation-building. One aspect of nation-building revolves around economic developments which, in extremely simplified terms, may lead to elevated standards of living; and if channeled efficiently – decreased poverty rate and income disparity, benefiting the populace as a whole.

One prevalent contributor to a countries’ economic prowess would be the measure of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (Naquib & Smucker, 2009). Social and political stability is often regarded as a pre-requisite for an inflow of FDI and plays a role among other factors such as labour wages and tax rates in affecting investors’ confidence. As a nation vehemently pursuing economic gains with a promising abundance of raw resources and strategic geographical standing, it would be a shame for Malaysia to lose out on a rapidly globalised economy on the basis of societal instability. As such, national unity is paramount in Malaysia’s pursuit of economic and societal development.

For decades, racial tension and disharmony have pervaded Malaysia’s political and social development and continues to be a stark point in everyday discourse.

Arguably, institutional intervention can only do that much. At the end of the day, it boils down to individuals’ efforts in making multicultural ties work.

On the grassroots level, moderation plays an incremental role in achieving national unity. Moderation in this sense, pertains to a conscious effort in avoiding dissonance and maintaining goodwill by compromising on traditions, beliefs and practices in everyday life.

Since Malaysia is far from being a secular state, religion dominates everyday discourse and hence remains a continual hiccup for the remedy of racial tensions. The term “racial tension” in Malaysia does not give a contextual picture of its predicament; instead most racial conflicts arise in the form of religious clashes, predominantly between Muslims and non-Muslims. In this sense, moderation with its inclination for tolerance and understanding, plays a role in bridging this religious divide and subsequently uniting the nation.

In a more practical manner, moderation could be achieved via organised interfaith activities such as forums, dialogues, workshops or even a walkabout. Instead of cowering behind the façade of sensitivity and taboo, youths should be encouraged to boldly participate in interfaith activities with the opportunity to engage with leaders of faith; clearing misconceptions while gaining further knowledge on other members of the nation.

With such an interactive exposure, participants would hopefully gain an insight on the commonalities of different religions, identify elements of extremism and perhaps even recognise the “weaponisation” of religion that often surfaces in the realm of politics. It is only until this level of maturity and moderation is achieved where youths can individualise and view others objectively.

In addition, moderation also plays a role in solidifying the Malaysian identity – a prerequisite for a cohesive nation. It is paramount for individuals to moderate between ancestral origins and national identity in order to find equilibrium in a diverse country like Malaysia, more so with the increasing interaction between cultures – courtesy of globalization.

Institutionally, there are a number of measures and policies which very nature reinforce the idea of a segregated nation and perhaps indicates a “race first, country second” preference. Instead of piddling about with cries of classism, Malaysians need not be fazed by these reinforced “labels” and identify rather, by their nationality.

In other words, elements of ancestral culture should be retained, but not at the expense of national identity. It is possible, as in the case of Western civilizations, for a nation to exist with a number of different cultures within a shared national label.

To conclude, national unity is crucial for the growth of Malaysia in terms of guaranteeing societal stability and spurring economic growth for the betterment of the people. Moderation plays an integral role in fostering this unity by equipping individuals with an educated and objective perspective on intercultural interaction, helping them to effectively and effortlessly navigate through the waters of diversity.



# Five Ways Malaysians Can Show Their Patriotism

Renewed by the spirit of the New Malaysia, here are five ways you can show your love and patriotism to the country we call home.



## 1 PERFORMING OUR CIVIC DUTY

Back in May, we have witnessed how powerful a single vote can be. And now, it is time for us to pay our dues. Likewise, we should also improve on our attitude by obeying traffic rules, picking up after ourselves and to always be punctual.



## 2 RESPECTING THE JALUR GEMILANG AND NEGARAKU

When we were in school, we often get reluctant whenever we are asked to do anything patriotic. But that should not have been the case. It should have been instilled in our hearts because Malaysia is our home and we should always love our country no matter what happens. That is why this coming Merdeka Day, we should wave the Jalur Gemilang up high and sing "Negaraku" loud and proud.

## 3

### EXPLORE EVERY PART OF MALAYSIA

Divided into 13 states and three federal territories, Malaysia is a treasure trove of cultures and wonders. And what better way to learn about the uniqueness of each state than to visit each individually.

Want to learn about the nation's early trading history? Visit the historical cities of Malacca and Penang and see the blend of old and new in vibrant display. Or perhaps you are more into nature and natural wonders? Then hike the tallest mountain in the region - Gunung Kinabalu - in Sabah or explore the largest cave chamber in the world at Mulu National Park, Sarawak.



## 4 CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES

Made up of a multicultural and multifaceted society, each thread forms the fabric that is uniquely Malaysian. Let us celebrate our diversity and be more tolerant towards one another especially after the recent wave of change. Even though we may have our differences, at the end of the day we are all human beings living under the same multiracial and harmonious roof.



## 5 EATING (AND INSTAGRAMMING) OUR DROOL-WORTHY FOOD

Malaysia is without a doubt a country that is well-known for its food. This unique local dish combines elements from the different races and the combination truly reflects our distinctive and beautiful flavour.

Regardless of what Malaysian food is your favourite, eating is perhaps the easiest way to show our love for the country. So be sure to Instagram it to the world!

Source: The Star



Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad was delighted by the overwhelming bipartisan support in the Dewan Rakyat on 16 July 2019 for proposed amendments to the Federal Constitution to lower the voting age to 18 years.

Describing it as the dawn of a new era, he said it was the first time under the new government that a bill was passed with the agreement of all parties.

"Some have pointed out why we didn't amend it during my time when I was the prime minister; before I took over it also did not happen.

"... but this time it happened with the support of all, no one rejected...100 percent of those present and far higher than the two-thirds support we needed to amend the Constitution," he told a press conference after winding up the debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2019, which was passed with the support of all 211 members present in the House.

He thanked the opposition for keeping their pledge to support the amendments.

Dr. Mahathir said the bipartisan approval was a feat for the people in electing their representatives.

"It shows the maturity of Malaysians because firstly, when there was a government transition, there was no riot or violence of any kind; it was a very smooth change of the government," he said.

Youth and Sports Minister Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman said at the same press conference that the victory belonged to young people who wanted their voice to be better heard in and outside Parliament, adding that issues faced by the group could also be championed more seriously.

He said: "I hope this bipartisanship will continue. In politics we will have different opinions but it does not mean we are hostile to the point we cannot co-operate for the sake of the people's agenda.

"That's why I have to thank and congratulate all...Alhamdulillah we can finally do it together," he said.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2019 secured 211 votes, more than the two-thirds required to pass the bill. The Dewan has 222 members but 11 were not present when the vote was taken.

When announcing the results of voting, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof said no one voted against the amendments or abstained.

In addition to lowering the age of citizens eligible to vote from 21 to 18, the amendments also proposed lowering the eligible age to contest for Dewan Rakyat and State Legislative Assembly seats to 18 years, and automatic registration of voters at 18 years.

In his reaction, Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the opposition bloc had fulfilled its promise to support the amendments in the bill.

"It is a recognition of young people who are believed to be capable of thinking to determine the government and the leadership of the country in the future," he said.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said increasing the awareness of the younger generation on their responsibility to vote and follow national politics should be the main thing to work on.

Meanwhile, in the government bloc, Parti Warisan Sabah president and Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said the amendments were in line with what was to be achieved in order for the younger generation to help shape the future of the country.

"We certainly support their right to not only vote, but also to become a candidate. I am convinced that 18 years is the right age to enable their rights to be fulfilled," he said.

Source: Bernama



## MPs AGREE TO VOTING AGE OF 18



The Dewan Rakyat passed the Constitution (Amendment Bill 2019 on 16 July 2019 to :

- Lower the voting age from 21 to 18
- Enable the automatic registration of an elector by the Election Commission once the person has reached the age of 18.
- Drop the age to 18 to qualify as a member of the House of Representatives & State Legislative Assembly

\* The government foresees an increase of **7.8 million voters** by the next General Election, which is due in 2023

\* The Government will step up its efforts to increase awareness about voting eligibility.

Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad  
Prime Minister of Malaysia

## THE VOTING AGE FOR ASEAN COUNTRIES

The Philippines..... <b>18</b>	Myanmar..... <b>18</b>
Indonesia..... <b>17</b>	Thailand..... <b>18</b>
Cambodia..... <b>18</b>	Singapore..... <b>21</b>
Laos..... <b>18</b>	Vietnam..... <b>18</b>

Source: Parliament of Malaysia

# NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICY



Dasar Keusahawanan Nasional  
Malaysia Negara Keusahawanan Unggul 2030

A long-term strategy to make Malaysia a prime entrepreneurial nation by 2030

This policy will act as catalyst for Malaysia to become a united, prosperous & respected nation & to continue developing sustainability with a more equitable & inclusive economic distribution, thereby emerging as Asia's economic axis

The strategies outlined in the National Entrepreneurship Policy are in line with the country's aspiration to achieve its Vision for Shared Prosperity

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

- 1 Creating a holistic & conducive entrepreneurial ecosystem to support an inclusive, balanced & sustainable economic development agenda
- 2 Moulding a Malaysian society with entrepreneurial thinking & culture
- 3 Increasing the number of qualified, viable, resilient & competitive entrepreneurs with global thinking
- 4 Enhancing the capabilities of local entrepreneurs and small & medium industries
- 5 Making entrepreneurship a career of choice

## 6 CORE ELEMENTS

- Inculcation of entrepreneurship at every level of society
- Optimising the regulatory system & access to financing
- Stimulating integrated & holistic entrepreneurial development
- Spurring economic growth through innovation-based enterprises
- Boosting capability & performance of micro, small & medium enterprises
- Internationalisation of high-growth enterprises

Source: Ministry of Entrepreneur Development

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#SayangiMalaysiaku #MalaysiaBersih #KemakmuranBersama #KitaMalaysia



# HAPPY 62th INDEPENDENCE DAY & MALAYSIA DAY 2019

**Sayangi  
Malaysiaku**  
MalaysiaBersih

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