



KEMENTERIAN PERPADUAN NEGARA

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEECH

**YB DATUK AARON AGO DAGANG
MINISTER OF NATIONAL UNITY MALAYSIA**

ON

SEJAHTERA MALAYSIA FORUM

***“FROM RUKUN NEGARA TO REALITY:
TRANSFORMING IDEALS INTO A HARMONIOUS
MALAYSIAN SOCIETY”***

29th of April 2024 (MONDAY)

9.00 AM

**LE QUADRI HOTEL BY THE UCSI HOTELS,
KUALA LUMPUR**

Salam Perpaduan and Good Morning.

Salutations

INTRODUCTION

1. Today, I am honored to address you at the **Sejahtera Malaysia Forum**, where we unite to turn the noble ideals of our Rukun Negara into reality for every Malaysian. I been asked to deliver speech on “**From Rukun Negara To Reality: Transforming Ideals Into A Harmonious Malaysian Society**”.
2. I extend my gratitude to the joint organizers, **KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, Dialog Rakyat, and UCSI University**, for providing this crucial platform to strengthen our bonds and renew our commitment to national unity."

RUKUN NEGARA AS THE NATIONAL PHILOSOPHY FOR NATIONAL UNITY:

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. The National Unity Policy proves that unity and national integration will continue to be the Government's primary agenda. **The document that has been developed with the**

Federal Constitution and Rukun Negara (National Tenets) at its core will act as a catalyst to Malaysia's endeavours to become a united, prosperous and dignified nation. This is also in line with the Malaysia MADANI core principles. The National Unity Policy is the umbrella policy outlining continued efforts to foster, strengthen and preserve unity among the people through the concept of **“Unity in Diversity” to preserve multiracial harmony in this country.**

4. Moreover, the flagship programme of the **Kembara Perpaduan Malaysia Madani** has been introduced with the aim of spreading knowledge, understanding, and community appreciation of the government's efforts in developing Malaysia Madani. The three main clusters outlined under this flagship are the Nationality Programme (Semarak Kenegaraan), the Unity Programme (Semarak Perpaduan), and the Rahmah Community Programme (Komuniti Rahmah).
5. **The Rukun Negara has been our guiding star, continuously fostering patriotism and unity.** The harmony and unity among Malaysia's multiracial community over the last five decades is a **direct manifestation of the five principles of the Rukun Negara.**

6. The Rukun Negara was proclaimed on 31 August 1970 by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong during the 13th anniversary of Malaysia's independence following the events of 13 May 1969. **The Rukun Negara is an ideology to standardise understanding among varied ethnic groups with the main purpose of developing robust unity.** The ideals and aspirations contained in the Rukun Negara are clearly the key to the people's harmony and unity for Malaysia's success and stability. This forms the basis for the National Unity Policy. Whereby our country, **Malaysia nurtures the ambitions of:**

- 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;
- Building a **progressive** society that will make use of science and modern technology.

7. Now therefore, we the people of Malaysia, pledge to concentrate our energy and efforts to achieve these ambitions based on the following principles:

- **Belief in God**
- **Loyalty to the King and Country**
- **Supremacy of the Constitution**
- **Rules of Law**
- **Courtesy and Morality**

8. To ensure every Malaysian embodies the spirit of the Rukun Negara, the Cabinet made a significant decision on 25th July 2023. We mandated **the recitation of the complete Rukun Negara pledge at all levels of our educational institutions and official government events nationwide.**

9. To echo this, the Ministry of National Unity has doubled its efforts and initiatives on the appreciation of Rukun Negara through the launching of **Rukun Negara Exploration programme (Eksplorasi Rukun Negara)** at three stages - **public (MyTown Shopping Complex), school (Kompleks Seri Bintang) and university (University Putra Malaysia).** Among the activities been conducted through this initiative are *‘Dialog Anak Muda’; ‘Ekspresi Rukun Negara’; ‘Muzikal Eksplorasi Rukun Negara’; ‘Hero Impian Untuk Malaysia’;*

'Pameran Mini Rukun Negara'; 'Kisah Kejayaan Malaysia Kita'; and 'Kapsul Suara Anak Malaysia'.

10. Besides, few impactful events been conducted through Department of National Unity and Integration such as **Unity Debat Perpaduan, Chit-Chat Belia, Kembara Perpaduan@Kampus, Kem Anak Malaysia, Kenali Budaya** and the ministry also continues to support the **Rukun Negara Public Speaking by Malacca State government** every year.
11. However, last month marked a historic moment when the Rukun Negara was recited in the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara for the first time, demonstrating our commitment to enhancing understanding and inspiring future generations.
12. **The five principles of Rukun Negara should not only be memorised and internalised but practised among the country's multicultural society for greater unity and to avoid disputes between races.** If each of us practices these five principles, surely sensitive issues and racial tensions will not arise and we can maintain the harmony of the multicultural society

REALIZING RUKUN NEGARA THROUGH GRASSROOTS

ACTIVITIES:

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. While formal recitations uphold the Rukun Negara, translating these ideals into tangible actions is equally vital. We must bridge the gap between vision and reality—moving from 'Grand to Ground.' True engagement with the rakyat is essential for nurturing national unity, and our ministry is committed to achieving this through proactive grassroots initiatives.
14. Firstly, **Tabika Perpaduan** preschools been introduced programmes into early childhood education in order to foster unity among children. Other than the teaching of languages, the programmes included a Rukun Negara module, inculcation of unity and good values and a module for children to be more independent.
15. Secondly, we are committed to the **Rukun Negara Club and Rukun Negara Secretariats will be expanded** to schools and higher education institutions across the country to strengthen efforts to inculcate a spirit of unity among the younger generation. The Rukun Negara Club/Secretariats

will be the leader of unity in schools and universities. Their role is crucial in making the ideals of Rukun Negara a lived reality for every Malaysian.

16. Thirdly, we are enhancing our outreach by appointing **50 Unity Ambassadors and 2 Unity Icons** annually, starting this year. These individuals are not just figureheads as they are active proponents of unity, tasked with spreading awareness and nurturing the spirit of togetherness across our nation.
17. Fourth, we are exploring the possibility of building **Unity Complexes in every state**, with the pioneering Machang District Unity Complex in Kelantan and the upcoming complex in Perlis, set to be completed by mid-2027. These complexes will serve as hubs for community activities and unity-building efforts.
18. Today, i would like to annouce that Ministry of National Unity through Department of National Unity and Integration will study the needs to launch **Rukun Negara Education & Appreciation Action Plan** which will be in line with National Unity Policy 2021-2030. It is an action plan which will outlined a planned modus operandi involving Ministry of

National Unity, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, and Ministry of Communication.

19. Additionally, the **Rukun Negara Appreciation Module and the Rukun Negara Youth Tour** with the theme of Enlivening the Rukun Negara (Menjiwai Rukun Negara) will be organised by the ministry in this year. The implementation of the initiative can form youth who have a national identity with a sense of identity, patriotism, tolerance and progressiveness in line with the ideals of the Rukun Negara.

20. Lastly, integrated programme such as **National Service Training Programme (PLKN 3.0)** is essential to shape a spirit of nationalism among youths. The revival of the PLKN 3.0 aimed to inculcate values such as unity, integrity and humanity among young Malaysians. Ministry of National Unity will work closely with Ministry of Defense on preparing modules related to nation building and unity.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen,

21. Today, we focus on translating the principles of the Rukun Negara into practical actions. This transformation requires a

concerted effort from all sectors of society. Each of you brings unique insights and capabilities vital in driving this change from the grassroots to the grand scale.

22. I am confident, if the spirit contained in the Rukun Negara continues to be appreciated and firmly embedded in the soul of every Malaysian. Together, let's ensure that every initiative we undertake is a step closer to realizing a harmonious Malaysian society.

Thank you.