

# Sekolah Vernakular: Usah lebarkan **perkauman**

**P**ARTI Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS) melihat isu sekolah vernakular yang menjadi perbincangan sejak kebelakangan ini, wajar ditangani secara harmoni dan berkesan.

Agenda perpaduan kaum mesti diangkat menjadi teras utama dalam menjamin kehidupan masyarakat majmuk dalam negara ini. Pemerkasaan dalam memahami budaya



dan bahasa kebangsaan iaitu Bahasa Melayu wajib diperkasakan.

Kegagalan sekolah vernakular dalam memupuk perpaduan nasional telah lama dilihat dan disuarakan oleh tokoh akademik dan perpa-

duan. Contohnya pendirian Profesor Datuk Dr Teo Kok Seong bahawa sistem sekolah vernakular yang digunakan selama ini menghalang pembentukan identiti nasional anak bangsa.

Oleh itu, PAS berpendirian sistem ini mesti diperbaiki. Sudah tiba masanya Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia (KPM) mengkaji semula sukatan atau silibus serta pembawakan sekolah-

sekolah di bawah kelolaan kementerian supaya dapat diselaraskan sebaik mungkin, terutamanya dalam isu penggunaan bahasa rasmi negara.

'Islam Memimpin Perpaduan'

KAMARUZAMAN MOHAMAD  
*Ketua Penerangan Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS)*  
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# LET'S MAKE COURTESY OUR WAY OF LIFE

**T**HE lack of courtesy among some Malaysians justifies the need to review efforts to promote courtesy and noble values in line with the fifth tenet of the Rukun Negara.

A review will determine whether our courtesy campaigns have achieved their goals.

Road bullies, traffic-rule breakers, litterbugs and vandals are evidence that Malaysians are far from being courteous and polite.

Inching into the yellow box when the traffic lights have turned red reflects a lack of patience, lack of decorum and selfishness among motorists.

Judging from the deplorable behaviours and attitudes of a substantial number of Malaysians, I have reservations about the effectiveness of the ongoing campaign to promote courtesy and make it a way of life.

The time has come for people to ask whether they have done enough to ensure the success of the cam-



*Rukun Negara expounds on courtesy, politeness, patience, humility, tolerance and respect.* FILE PIC

paign to promote courtesy and noble values among Malaysians.

My observation shows that courtesy, politeness, patience, humility, tolerance and respect, as expounded in the Rukun Negara, have yet to become our way of life.

A lot more remains to be done to inculcate these virtues in Malaysians, particularly the young generation. Many students do not even say "thank you" when an award or

certificate is presented to them.

I had, on several occasions, presented certificates and awards to students to recognise their academic achievements, and they just walk away without saying "thank you".

It's not that I want them to thank me, but as a matter of courtesy, they should have learned such manners at home or school.

It is also common to come across people who drive or park haphazard-

ly on the road, litter in public places, vandalise, jump queues and do not apologise when they make a mistake.

Other issues that need to be addressed include talking rudely to customers, smoking in non-smoking zones, spitting and not giving up their seat to the elderly, disabled and pregnant women on public transport.

Having a campaign to promote courtesy and noble values is important, but what is more essential is to

put them into practise in our lives.

The civil service should promote courtesy among counter staff dealing with the public, besides practising basic civilities and courtesies, such as responding to calls and replying to letters promptly.

Courtesy campaigns must start from schools to be successful. Moral Education should be reinforced to emphasise the importance of learning and practising noble values taught in schools.

Memorising the noble values for the sake of passing examinations is not desirable.

What we want is for the noble values to be put into practice.

A developed and high-income nation status will be meaningful only if Malaysia inculcates a culture of courtesy and noble values in its people.

Hopefully, the government will step up its efforts towards this goal.

**TAN SRI LEE LAM THYE**

Kuala Lumpur

# Malaysia Prihatin aspirasi Rukun Negara



SENTUHAN  
RAKYAT

DR ISMAIL SUALMAN

**T**ema sambutan Hari Kebangsaan pada tahun ini iaitu Malaysia Prihatin adalah selaras dan memenuhi aspirasi kerajaan terutama apabila seluruh rakyat Malaysia terbukti bersama-sama memerangi koronavirus (Covid-19).

Perkataan 'prihatin' melambangkan kesungguhan dan inisiatif kerajaan yang merangkumi aspek ekonomi, kebajikan dan kelangsungan rakyat Malaysia. Bantuan prihatin melalui Pelan Jana Semula Ekonomi Negara (Penjana) telah dinikmati oleh sebahagian besar masyarakat yang terjejas dan terkesan dengan Covid-19.

Kita bersyukur dan berterima kasih kepada pemerintah yang memberikan keutamaan kepada aspek kesihatan dan keselamatan rakyat berbanding hal ehwal lain. Rakyat Malaysia berganding bahu bagi memastikan segala arahan ketika tempoh Perintah Kawa-

lan Pergerakan (PKP) dipatuhi. Ramai sukarelawan tampil memberi bantuan dan sokongan tanpa mengira kaum, agama dan fahaman politik.

Roh dan semangat Malaysia Prihatin sewajarnya diterjemahkan. Bukan sahaja dalam usaha menamatkan terus wabak Covid-19 tetapi juga untuk memulihkan semula ekonomi dan kehidupan rakyat ke arah yang lebih baik serta selesa.

Maka, Malaysia Prihatin sebenarnya tanda dan kayu ukur bagi mengukuhkan kembali asas-asas perpaduan, keharmonian dan kesejahteraan rakyat Malaysia yang termaktub dalam Rukun Negara. Sudah tentu semua warga Malaysia perlu melakukannya bersama-sama bagi memastikan keamanan dan keselamatan negara terjamin.

Malaysia Prihatin turut memenuhi aspirasi dan nilai yang digariskan dalam Rukun Negara. Rakyat Malaysia mengetahui pentingnya bersatu padu dan hidup dengan aman damai serta dapat menghindari sifat curiga antara satu sama lain terutama ketika dilanda bencana.

Perpaduan kaum pula adalah matlamat penting yang ingin dicapai oleh semua negara di dunia termasuklah Malaysia. Tanpa perpaduan, sesebuah negara akan menjadi lemah, sukar un-

tuk dibangunkan dan mudah diancam serta diceroboh oleh anasir luar atau dalam negara itu sendiri.

Oleh itu, Rukun Negara menjadi satu titik permulaan ke arah pencapaian perpaduan dalam kalangan semua etnik di Malaysia. Apabila rakyat Malaysia menghayati maksud Rukun Negara, maka ia akan memudahkan proses pentadbiran negara.

## Konsep

Matlamat Rukun Negara dapat dicapai dengan mudah tanpa prejudis oleh mana-mana pihak. Mengamalkan Rukun Negara akan melahirkan masyarakat yang bersatu padu.

Melalui perpaduan akan dapat membantu Malaysia mempertingkatkan lagi pertumbuhan ekonomi, mengekalkan kestabilan politik dan sistem pemerintahan negara yang bersifat liberal dan demokratik.

Namun, beberapa insiden dan rentetan peristiwa kebelakangan ini memberi gambaran bahawa prinsip Rukun Negara seolah-olah sudah dilupakan serta tidak lagi relevan dalam konteks kehidupan masyarakat yang prihatin.

Setiap kali menjelang Hari Kebangsaan, masih wujud isu bendera terbalik,

menukar Jata Negara dan sengaja mengibarkan bendera bukan Jalur Gemilang yang bertentangan dengan undang-undang negara. Tindakan seperti mempertikaikan kuasa Raja-Raja Melayu, kedudukan agama Islam sebagai agama rasmi, kedudukan istimewa orang Melayu dan bumiputera masih menjadi agenda pihak tertentu.

Malaysia telah membuktikan walaupun wujud perbezaan, namun masih dapat mengamalkan budaya dan norma hidup bersama antara kaum utama. Janganlah kita menggadai keamanan yang dikecapi hanya kerana perasaan iri hati dan ketidakpuasan yang tidak dikongsi majoriti rakyat.

Jangan kita leka dengan iklim kemakmuran dan keamanan Malaysia kerana ia menjadi sasaran pihak luar yang mula mencabar kedaulatan dan persempadanan negara. Keprihatinan rakyat dan kerajaan menjadi resipi berdekad lamanya rakyat daripada satu generasi ke satu generasi berbilang kaum untuk hidup bersama dengan aman dan harmoni.

*\* Profesor Datuk Dr Ismail Sualman ialah Pengarah Pusat Pengajian Perang Saraf Media dan Informasi, Fakulti Komunikasi dan Pengajian Media Universiti Teknologi Mara*

# Embracing the Rukun Negara

The National Day celebrations were a toned down affair but displays of affection and patriotism carried on in a big way on social media and in the hearts of Malaysians.

IN Seremban on Aug 31 this year, there were no schoolchildren waving flags, no uniformed officers performing perfectly synchronised salutes, no platoons of rifle-spinning soldiers, no giant Jalur Gemilang held preciously yet tautly by trusted hands, no daredevil acrobatics through fiery hoops by special forces, no fleets of ambulances or fire trucks, no rumbling of PT-91M tanks with their crew turning as their turrets pass the royal dais, no spirited shouts of "kiri, kiri, kiri kanan kiri" from NGO leaders unused to military precision, no flag-bearing daredevils chosen more for their parachuting skills than their interest in vexillology, and no demonstrations of silat or silambam by fearless kids ready to use their skills against a real enemy of the nation.

Being involved in a National Day parade is an indelible memory for countless Malaysians, and thousands would have been denied the opportunity this year, with the constraints caused by Covid-19 still in place.

As a consolation for spectators at

least, social media quickly reminded us of the high-energy displays of patriotism of previous years.

This is not to say that there were no physical events at all.

In similar vein to the scaled-down events for Hari Raya Haji in Seri Menanti, or to Maal Hijrah at the state mosque in Seremban (in which the usual Tokoh Maal Hijrah awards were replaced by appreciation to frontliners in the fight against the coronavirus), the usual Merdeka festivities at Seremban's main padang were replaced by a small, stationary yet meaningful event.

Following the singing of the *Negaraku* and the state anthem – face masks bearing the state crest would have concealed anyone unsure of the lyrics, but then again, the rendition for brass instruments is normally heard rather than sung – the state mufti led a prayer for peace, unity and public health framed by the still-new practice of beating of a bass drum to signify when Muslims should simultaneously raise and drop their hands for the supplication.

The Mentri Besar, making his way from his seat beside the Yang di-Pertuan Besar and ruling chiefs, joined his state executive councillors, spaced as equally apart as the military band nearby, to lead in the recitation of the Rukun Negara.

Beginning with the full preamble that speaks of a democratic way of life, a liberal approach and a progressive society, drumbeats once again marked each of the five principles repeated by all present.

The Rukun Negara featured prominently at the federal level, too, with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in his royal address reminding citizens not to merely repeat it symbolically, but to live according to its ideals.

This was most appropriate, given that unlike other visions of national ideals, the Rukun Negara was proclaimed 50 years ago by his predecessor, as federal monarch, Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah who, as a signatory to both the 1948 and 1957 Federation of Malaya Agreements, had participated in the constitutional evolution of the country.

That the Rukun Negara emerged out of a period of great concern for civil unrest following riots in Kuala Lumpur in 1969 (the aftermath of which Sultan Ismail, a noted photographer, recorded with his camera) makes it even more apt, serving as a reminder that out of perilous times, sustainable visions of unity may emerge.

For some years there have been efforts to formally elevate the Rukun Negara into a preamble of our Federal Constitution (something that would require the approval of two-thirds absolute majority in both the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara), and it is interesting that former Youth and Sports minister Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman has said that both these documents will serve as the cornerstone of the ideology of his new party which, while explicitly embracing Malaysians irrespective of race and religion, invokes a different demographic marker, that of age (unless, of course, youth is a state of mind).

The corporate sector too, beyond the usual Merdeka discounts and

promotions, embraced the Rukun Negara.

I, along with other directors of Allianz Malaysia, recited it in full, complementing the company's efforts to harness intellectual depth and historical understanding in the awareness of being Malaysian.

Through a newly established collaboration with the cultural organisation Pusaka, a series of 10 books will explore the foundations of the nation and aim to provide material for public education and a broader discussion on Malaysia's history, present and future.

Looking at the social media content already published, I am excited to see how this develops.

As ever, the critical step is translating this enthusiasm about the Rukun Negara into its long-term inculcation into the hearts and minds of young Malaysians, lest annual reminders of its importance become as performative as its weekly school recitation.

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