



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY

SPEECH

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MINISTER OF NATIONAL UNITY**

**THE PREMIERE SCREENING OF THE VIDEO “ZHENG HE”
(HARMONY)**

**19 DECEMBER 2024 (THURSDAY)
CHINA CULTURAL CENTRE KUALA LUMPUR**

SOKA GAKKAI MALAYSIA SELANGOR CULTURE CENTRE

SALUTATION

*(*will be prepare separately)*

1. First and foremost, allow me to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the organizers for inviting me to this meaningful event. Today, we gather to celebrate yet another significant milestone in the **friendship between Malaysia and China, marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two nations.**
2. In 1974, Malaysia and China established diplomatic ties with a forward-looking vision based on mutual respect and cooperation that benefited both nations. Now, **five decades later, this relationship has evolved beyond diplomacy, encompassing various fields such as economics, education, technology, and, equally importantly, cultural exchange.**
3. However, the close ties between Malaysia and China began much earlier, approximately 600 years ago. During the Ming Dynasty, diplomatic and trade relations were established with the Sultanate of Malacca. One of the most significant historical events during this period was Admiral Zheng He's voyages to this region, which played a pivotal role in building a strong foundation for cultural, economic, and diplomatic ties between the two nations.

4. The video “Zheng He (Harmony)” that we are witnessing today is the result of more than a year of effort, symbolizing the close cultural ties that have existed since ancient times. **Admiral Zheng He’s voyages left not only a historical legacy but also highlighted the values of unity and cooperation among nations, which remain relevant to this day.**

5. The vision of the Ministry of National Unity is to lead inclusive unity toward shared prosperity, while our mission focuses on new efforts in uniting people to build a foundation of integration that strengthens the spirit of goodwill among citizens. **This video, with its narrative emphasizing harmony between Malaysian and Chinese cultures, aligns with the ministry's efforts to foster unity among Malaysians.**

6. I am confident that through this video, Malaysians will appreciate the importance of unity and harmony in shaping a strong national identity. **It also serves as an essential medium to showcase Malaysia to the world as a country that practices tolerance among races, lives harmoniously, and maintains friendly relations with all nations.**

Distinguished guests,

7. In a country as diverse as Malaysia, with its rich tapestry of ethnicities, cultures, and religions, the ***Negara Bangsa* principle serves as a unifying foundation, guiding us toward harmony and shared prosperity.** The term *Negara Bangsa* signifies a nation-state built on shared values, mutual respect, and a collective identity.

8. It is not about erasing our unique cultural identities; rather, it is about weaving them into a cohesive narrative that defines us as Malaysians. This principle recognizes our diversity as a strength and promotes a sense of belonging and loyalty to the nation above all else. The *Negara Bangsa* principle is more than a concept it is a call to action. It reminds us that unity is not automatic; it requires effort, understanding, and a willingness to rise above our differences for the greater good.

9. On the other hand, in April 2024, the Ministry of National Unity launched the **MADANI Harmony Initiative** aimed at enhancing Malaysians' understanding of the country's religious, cultural, and customs diversity. Among the programmes the ministry rolled out was the "*Jejak Harmoni*" initiative which saw the adherents of the various faiths gather to interact and visit each other's' places of worship. This is among the initiatives we ran to

promote greater understanding of the differences in every religion.

10. Malaysians should embrace respect, understanding and acceptance to strengthen unity and bridge differences in our multi-racial society. Understanding paves the way for acceptance, which in turn alleviates tensions arising from differences, while highlighting the need for Malaysians to view diversity as a valuable asset.
11. **When we understand each other, it creates more opportunities for acceptance and respect, thereby reducing racial differences and fostering unity in society.**
12. Besides that, in August 2024, The Inter-Faith Harmony Committee (JK HARMONI) approved the proposed Malaysia **Harmony Charter as a medium for unity and harmony among Malaysians**. The charter encompasses six principles, **12 harmony values, 32 guidelines, and 9 directions**, and will contain a guideline covering permissible and avoidable matters in strengthening relations among the country's multi-ethnic, religious and cultural society. This is a joint effort between the National Unity Ministry and the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs).

CONCLUSION

13. In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the **China Cultural Centre Kuala Lumpur and the Chinese Bridge Club Kuala Lumpur** for their efforts in producing this meaningful video. I believe this video will leave a positive impact on Malaysians and the international community.

14. As Malaysians, let us embrace Negara Bangsa principle wholeheartedly. Let us commit to building a nation where every individual, regardless of their background, feels proud to call Malaysia their home.

Unity is our strength, diversity is our beauty, and together, we are *Negara Bangsa*.

Thank you.