



KEMENTERIAN PERPADUAN NEGARA

SPEECH

**YB DATUK AARON AGO DAGANG
MENTERI PERPADUAN NEGARA**

18TH CCM TRIENNIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 APRIL 2025 | TUESDAY

**LINTAS PLATINUM HOTEL
KOTA KINABALU**

Good Morning dan Salam Malaysia Madani.

SALUTION

****will be given separately***

INTRODUCTION

1. It is both a privilege and a profound honour to address this distinguished assembly at the **18th Triennial General Assembly of the Council of Churches of Malaysia (CCM)**. This gathering stands as a testament to the enduring commitment of religious communities in Malaysia to uphold the values of **peace, mutual respect, and unity**.
2. **Religious institutions have long been pillars of our society, providing spiritual guidance, moral direction, and a sense of community.** In a nation as diverse as Malaysia, these institutions play an indispensable role in fostering understanding and cooperation among different faiths.
3. The Council of Churches of Malaysia, representing a significant segment of the Christian community, exemplifies this role through its unwavering dedication to dialogue and collaboration with other religious groups.

4. **The Council of Churches of Malaysia** has, over the decades, stood as a moral compass and a unifying force within the **Christian community and the larger Malaysian society**. Since its inception, CCM has provided spiritual leadership, promoted social justice, and perhaps most significantly in our context today championed interfaith understanding and national cohesion.
5. **The Ministry of National Unity** acknowledges with deep appreciation the many collaborative efforts CCM has undertaken with other faith-based organisations and government agencies to promote social well-being and religious harmony. These efforts are not only timely but crucial in an era where misunderstanding, extremism, and misinformation can so easily divide communities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

HARMONY IN DIVERSITY: A CORE PRINCIPLE

6. **Malaysia's strength lies in its diversity**. Our multicultural and multi-religious society is a rich tapestry woven from the threads of various traditions, beliefs, and practices. Embracing this diversity is not merely an aspiration; it is a necessity for national cohesion and progress.

7. The concept of **"Harmony in Diversity"** is central to the **government's vision of a united Malaysia Madani**. This vision underscores the importance of **understanding, respect, and acceptance among all Malaysians**, irrespective of their religious or cultural backgrounds. It is through such principles that we can build a society where differences are celebrated, and commonalities are cherished.
8. **HARMONI MADANI**, a key pillar under this vision, reflects the Ministry of National Unity's strategic direction in fostering **deep, meaningful harmony between people of different religions, ethnicities, and cultures**. It is not a slogan it is a framework of action. Among the programs that been conducted are Harmony Dialogue, Jejak Harmoni, Harmony Documentary, Interfaith events and many more.
9. Interfaith dialogue is a vital tool in bridging divides and fostering a culture of peace. It provides a platform for individuals of different faiths to come together, share perspectives, and work collaboratively towards common goals. Such dialogues help dispel misconceptions, reduce prejudices, and build trust among communities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN NATION BUILDING

10. Let me stress again, **religious institutions are not on the periphery of nation building, they are at its core.**

Throughout history, places of worship have been sanctuaries for the needy, centres of education, and sources of moral strength. In Malaysia, our religious institutions are also becoming key partners in community development, disaster relief, mental health support, and environmental conservation.

11. As we face the emerging challenges of the 21st century such as digital misinformation, identity politics, and moral relativism, the voice of religion must not be silenced, but **guided with wisdom, moderation, and justice.** Religious leaders must continue to be a voice of reason, peace, and clarity in times of confusion.

CONCLUSION

12. As we gather here at this significant assembly, let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of peace, unity, and shared human dignity. Let us make Malaysia a beacon of harmony in a world often torn by discord. **And let us do so together not as strangers, not as competitors, but as fellow Malaysians united in our diversity.**

13. To the Council of Churches of Malaysia, I thank you for your ongoing efforts and unwavering commitment to nation building. **May this 18th Triennial General Assembly bear much fruit and inspire even greater collaboration in the years to come.**

May God bless our work, our unity, and our beloved Malaysia.

Thank You.