



KEMENTERIAN PERPADUAN NEGARA

SPEECH

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

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

**PAVILION BUKIT JALIL CHINESE NEW
YEAR LAUNCH
LEAP INTO PROSPERITY**

22 JANUARY 2026 | 11.00 AM

CENTRE COURT, PAVILION BUKIT JALIL

Salam Perpaduan dan Salam Malaysia MADANI,

Thank you to our Master of Ceremonies.

SALUTATION

**to be provided seperately.*

OPENING REMARKS

1. As we gather here today at Pavilion Bukit Jalil to celebrate Chinese New Year, I am thankful for the warmth, colour and sense of togetherness that brings us all here. Festive occasions like these are more than cultural celebrations. This are moments that bring families together, reconnect friends, and remind us of the values we share as Malaysians **”understanding, respect, acceptance and celebrate.”**
2. The Chinese New Year of 2026 marks the **Year of the Fire Horse**, a symbol often associated with energy, courage and determination. As we welcome this new year, let us take inspiration from its spirit to move forward with confidence, to face challenges with resilience, and to build a future rooted in mutual understanding and compassion. May this year bring health, prosperity and harmony to all.

HARMONY IN DIVERSITY

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Malaysia is truly unique. **We are home to more than 34 million people, shaped by over 200 ethnic groups, speaking more than 130 languages and dialects, and practising diverse faiths and traditions. We are not a melting pot where differences fade away, but a salad bowl where each community retains its identity while enriching the whole.** Malays, Chinese, Indians, the Indigenous peoples of Sabah and Sarawak, and many others each community is an essential thread in the fabric of our nation, woven together by shared history and shared hope.

4. **Yet unity does not happen on its own. It is not something we can take for granted or assume will always exist. Unity must be nurtured in our homes, our schools, our workplaces and our communities.** In a world increasingly marked by uncertainty, misinformation and social tension, harmony, unity and stability remain Malaysia's greatest strengths. **When unity is strong, trust grows, opportunities expand, and our economy and communities move forward together.**

5. But when unity weakens, even small misunderstandings can deepen divides and strain the social fabric that binds us. That is why unity is not merely a slogan or a policy, it is a shared responsibility. **Each of us has a role to play in choosing empathy over suspicion, dialogue over division, and respect over resentment.** Only by doing so can we ensure that Malaysia remains peaceful, resilient and united for generations to come.

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.

NEGARA BANGSA

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. This year, **the Ministry of National Unity renews its commitment to the work of *Negara Bangsa* as a shared journey that shapes who we are and who we aspire to become.** Nation-state is not something that can be legislated or enforced; it is something that must be lived and felt. It is not the responsibility of government alone, but a shared journey that belongs to every Malaysian, across generations, communities and beliefs.

8. At its heart, *Negara Bangsa* is about building trust: trust that our differences are respected, our voices are heard, and that beyond our diversity, there exists a ***perkongsian identiti bersama*** — a shared Malaysian identity that binds us together. We shall remember that **Peace, Unity, Stability and Harmony are the fundamental pillars of our nation's development.**

9. For this vision to succeed, meaningful interaction between communities is essential. Unity cannot grow in isolation or silence. It grows when we listen to one another, when we engage with empathy, and when we create safe spaces for dialogue and understanding. The Ministry's focus this year is to ensure that no community feels invisible, unheard or left behind, because a nation can only stand strong when every citizen feels they truly belong.

10. **The corporate sector and non-governmental organisations are vital partners in this effort.** Businesses shape daily experiences through inclusive workplaces, fair opportunities and responsible leadership. NGOs, grounded in communities, serve as bridges addressing misunderstandings, nurturing trust and strengthening social bonds at the grassroots level. When government, the private sector and civil society move forward together with sincerity

and purpose, unity becomes more than a policy; it becomes a way of life for our nation.

11. The Ministry of National Unity launched the Harmoni MADANI initiative in 2024 as a sustained effort to nurture harmony and unity among Malaysians. This year, the initiative will be continued and further strengthened through more comprehensive and impactful approaches.

12. This is because harmony is not merely an added value, but a fundamental pillar in building a strong, stable, and prosperous nation state.

13. Through the Harmoni MADANI initiative, we are committed to strengthening mutual understanding and fostering closer relations among diverse communities and followers of different faiths through meaningful engagement, constructive dialogue, and the cultivation of mutual respect. This approach is crucial in addressing social deficits within our society and in ensuring that national stability is continuously preserved in an environment that upholds peace, inclusivity, and respect for differences.

14. Under this initiative, **a new programme will be introduced this year, known as the Perkampungan Harmoni**, which is specially designed for young people from

various religious and cultural backgrounds. This programme is envisioned to nurture a generation of unity ambassadors who will act as agents of change in promoting harmony, mutual respect, and social cohesion for a more united and resilient Malaysia.

CLOSING REMARKS

15. I would also like to commend Pavilion Bukit Jalil for curating a celebration that truly brings Malaysians together in a shared space of joy, culture, and togetherness. With over 600 outlets under one roof, it offers endless choices for families and friends to reunite! Whether it is gathering over a festive meal, enjoying quality time with loved ones, or simply spending a meaningful day off together.

16. I look forward to seeing Pavilion Bukit Jalil continue to strengthen this spirit of unity, and to surpass this year's celebrations with even more meaningful experiences next year, especially as we also welcome Kongsi Raya, a season that reflects Malaysia's beautiful harmony.

Gong Xi Fa Cai, Xin Nian Kuai Le, and Thank You.