



KEMENTERIAN PERPADUAN NEGARA

OPENING ADDRESS

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

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

**THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PROGRAMME AND
EXHIBITION 'THE GREAT INCA EMPIRE: INTEGRATION
AND DIVERSITY' ORGANISED BY THE EMBASSY OF
PERU IN MALAYSIA**

**5 MAY 2026 (TUESDAY)
10.00 AM**

**AUDITORIUM
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALAYSIA**

Good Morning, Salam Perpaduan dan Salam Malaysia MADANI

SALUTATIONS

**(latest salutations will provided separately)*

WELCOMING REMARKS

1. I am truly honoured to be present today at the **Opening Ceremony of the Programme and Exhibition “*The Great Inca Empire: Integration and Diversity.*”** This distinguished event brings together the enduring values of history, culture, and international cooperation on a meaningful and inspiring platform.
2. First and foremost, I would like to express my highest appreciation to the **Embassy of Peru and the National Library of Malaysia** for organising this programme. This initiative not only enriches our intellectual and cultural landscape, but also reflects a shared commitment to fostering mutual understanding through the exchange of knowledge and heritage.
3. Our gathering today goes beyond the opening of an exhibition. It signifies a collective dedication to **appreciating the richness of human civilisation and to**

strengthening cultural connections that transcend geographical boundaries.

4. In this moment, we witness the convergence of two great civilisations from distant continents, brought together by universal values **diversity, unity, and our shared humanity.**

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. This year is particularly significant as **Malaysia and Peru commemorate 40 years of diplomatic relations since 1986.** Over the decades, this relationship has been built not only on shared interests, but also strengthened by mutual trust, respect, and a collective resolve to expand cooperation.
7. Both countries are, among others, members of the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Forum for East Asia-Latin American Cooperation (FEALAC), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** and are signatories to **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).**

8. The momentum of this relationship has been further enhanced through the official visit of the YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, to Peru in November 2024. This visit was not merely diplomatic in nature but served as a catalyst for elevating Malaysia - Peru relations to a more strategic and impactful level. During the visit, both countries have signed memorandum of understanding (MoUs) in the **halal, agriculture and gastronomy sectors.**

EXHIBITION 'THE GREAT INCA EMPIRE: INTEGRATION AND DIVERSITY'

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. **Malaysia and Peru share a strong similarity in their rich cultural and ethnic diversity**, which forms an important foundation of their national identity.

10. Malaysia is a multi-ethnic nation comprising mainly Malays, Chinese, Indians, Iban, Kadazan and Indigenous communities, each contributing to the country's cultural, linguistic, and social fabric. This diversity is embraced within a framework of unity, where harmony and mutual respect are key national principles.

11. Similarly, Peru is a multi-ethnic nation comprising mainly Indigenous peoples (around 45%) and Mestizos of mixed Indigenous and European heritage (approximately 37%). The country is also home to 44 distinct ethnic groups, including 42 in the Amazon region, as well as prominent highland communities such as the Quechua and Aymara.

12. In both countries, **diversity is not viewed as a division but as a source of strength, shaping national identity, cultural expression, and social cohesion.** This is what we call Unity is Diversity. Diversity is strength.

13. **“The Great Inca Empire: Integration and Diversity”** invites us to appreciate a civilisation that exemplifies unity through diversity, guided by strong values, structured systems, and effective leadership.

14. **Cultural diplomacy continues to play a pivotal role in fostering mutual understanding and strengthening connections between societies.**

15. Through this exhibition, we see how history becomes a bridge, culture become a common language, and knowledge become a foundation for stronger ties between Malaysia and

Peru. **To further strengthen this role, the National Library of Malaysia will continue to enhance key initiatives, including:**

- **The Embassy Collection Corner**, which enables visitors to explore the history, culture, and identity of nations, including the Inca civilisation.
- **International exhibitions and collaborative collections with embassies** and partners that advance global knowledge; and
- **Reference services and programmes that serve as platforms for dialogue** and knowledge sharing.

16. These efforts demonstrate that universal values transcend borders, bringing nations closer together despite geographical distance. In line with the aspirations of Malaysia MADANI, the Government remains committed to nurturing a society that is grounded in compassion, inclusivity, and shared values.

17. I would also like to express my appreciation for hosting the Executive Talk, ***“The Shaping of Two Nations: Their Histories, Cultures, Languages, and People,”*** which will be

delivered by Associate Professor Dr. Roy Anthony Rogers, Head of the Department of International and Strategic Studies at Universiti Malaya and Fellow of Akademi Kenegaraan Malaysia.

CLOSING

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

18. I am confident this exhibition will benefit all, particularly the younger generation, in recognising diversity as a strength in building a harmonious and resilient nation.
19. It is my hope that this initiative will continue to serve as an effective platform in further strengthening the ties between Malaysia and Peru.
20. With great honour, I am pleased to officially declare open the Programme and Exhibition “The Great Inca Empire: Integration and Diversity”.

Thank you.