



KEMENTERIAN PERPADUAN NEGARA

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IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON “MULTI-FAITH
PARTNERSHIP IN PRAXIS FOR HUMAN
FLUORISHING AND DIGNITY”**

4th AUGUST 2026

**THE PACIFIC SUTERA HOTEL
KOTA KINABALU, SABAH**

Good Morning, Salam Perpaduan and Salam Malaysia
MADANI

SALUTATION

****Latest salutation will provide separately***

INTRODUCTION

1. First and foremost, it is with great pleasure and profound honor that I welcome all of you to the **Roundtable Discussion on “Multi-Faith Partnership In Praxis For Human Flourishing And Dignity.”**
2. I am pleased to acknowledge the continuing collaboration between the **Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM)** and the **International Centre for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University (ICLRS BYU)** in advancing discussions on social harmony within multi-faith communities and in organizing initiatives such as this roundtable.
3. For this year’s programme, I would also like to commend the joint efforts of the Department of National Unity and Integration (JPNIN), Seminari Theoloji Malaysia (STM), Majlis Ugama Islam Sabah (MUIS), Pejabat Mufti Negeri

Sabah and Pertubuhan Keharmonian Inklusif Tanah Air (KITA) Sabah.

4. The theme of this roundtable, **“Human Flourishing and Multi-Faith Partnership”**, is deeply aligned with Malaysia’s aspiration to strengthen unity within a diverse nation.
5. Today, the world faces unprecedented challenges. **Armed conflicts, climate change, widening inequality, rapid technological disruption, and the rise of misinformation and hate speech are testing the resilience of our societies.** Yet perhaps the greatest challenge is not technological, it is moral. We are witnessing a growing deficit of trust, empathy and social cohesion.
6. This is why conversations on human flourishing must go beyond economic growth. Development cannot be measured solely by GDP or infrastructure. **A nation truly flourishes when its people live with dignity, trust one another, respect diversity, and work together for the common good.**
7. Malaysia offers a unique perspective. Drawing from the rich tapestry of our great religious and moral traditions. We have a unique opportunity to redefine what development truly

means. Our diversity is not an obstacle to progress, it is our greatest source of resilience.

8. **Our Constitution recognises Islam as the religion of the Federation while guaranteeing the freedom of other religions to be practised in peace and harmony.** This constitutional balance has enabled Malaysia to nurture a multicultural society where different faiths continue to coexist while preserving their respective identities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. Multi-faith partnership is not merely about religious tolerance. It is about **working together despite our differences to solve common challenges.**
10. In Malaysia, religious organisations have long collaborated beyond theological boundaries. They work together during humanitarian disasters, organise food aid programmes, promote blood donation campaigns, support education initiatives, provide welfare assistance for vulnerable communities, and participate in interfaith dialogues to strengthen mutual understanding.

11. During times of crisis, Malaysians have repeatedly demonstrated that compassion transcends religious identity. Whether responding to floods, supporting families affected by hardship, or rebuilding communities, faith-based organisations often stand shoulder to shoulder in serving humanity.
12. Recognising the importance of this partnership, the Ministry of National Unity introduced the **Harmony MADANI Initiative** in 2024 to institutionalise interfaith engagement as a continuous national effort.
13. Through Harmony MADANI, we organise **Harmony Dialogues, Harmony Trails, Harmony Documentaries, nationwide social media campaigns, and World Interfaith Harmony Week**. These initiatives create safe spaces for meaningful conversations, encourage visits to places of worship, and strengthen understanding among Malaysians from different faith backgrounds.
14. Our approach is guided by four simple yet powerful values:
- I. **Faham — Understand.** Understanding begins by listening before judging.

- II. **Hormat — Respect.** Respect allows diversity to become a source of strength rather than division.
- III. **Terima — Accept.** Acceptance recognises that unity does not require uniformity.
- IV. **Meraikan — Celebrate.** We celebrate our diversity as part of our shared national identity.

15. These values reflect not only our national aspiration but also the universal teachings found across the world's great religions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. Malaysia's **Rukun Negara**, our National Principles established after one of the darkest moments in our nation's history, remains the moral compass of our country. Its preamble calls upon Malaysians to achieve **greater unity**, preserve **a democratic way of life**, create **a just society**, preserve **traditions**, and build **a progressive society**.

17. These aspirations cannot be realised without trust across religious communities. This is why religious leaders have an indispensable role. **Religious leaders are among the most trusted voices within society.** They shape moral values, influence public attitudes, and often become the first point of

guidance during moments of uncertainty. Their responsibility therefore extends beyond serving their own congregations, they are also guardians of social harmony.

18. Practical collaboration is equally important. We can establish regular interfaith councils at the local level, organise youth exchange programmes among different religious communities, undertake joint environmental initiatives, coordinate humanitarian missions, promote digital literacy against misinformation and hate speech, and develop early intervention mechanisms to address sensitive issues before they escalate.

19. These are not theoretical ideals. They are practical investments in social resilience. Around the world, there are valuable examples.

20. In **Singapore**, the **Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO)**, established in **1949**, brings together leaders from different faiths to foster understanding, dialogue and cooperation. It remains one of the world's oldest formal interfaith organisations and has contributed significantly to maintaining religious harmony within Singapore's multicultural society.

21. In the **United Arab Emirates**, the establishment of the **Abrahamic Family House** in Abu Dhabi symbolises coexistence through the presence of a mosque, a church and a synagogue within one shared complex. Beyond architecture, it serves as a platform for education, dialogue and peaceful engagement among different faith communities.

22. These examples remind us that peaceful coexistence does not happen by chance. It requires deliberate investment, courageous leadership and sustained dialogue.

Ladies and gentlemen,

23. Malaysia is now entering a new chapter. Under our **13th Malaysia Plan**, the Ministry of National Unity is shifting its strategic focus from strengthening social cohesion towards **Nation Building**.

24. It is about developing a shared identity rooted in the Federal Constitution, the Rukun Negara, mutual respect and shared responsibility. A successful nation-state is one where citizens of different religions, cultures and ethnicities do not merely coexist, they share a common future.

25. In this journey, multi-faith partnership will remain one of our most important pillars. Because when faith communities work together, societies become more resilient.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen,

26. Allow me to conclude with a simple reflection. The future will not be shaped by those who build the highest walls. It will be shaped by those who build the strongest bridges.

27. Let us continue building those bridges across religions, across cultures, and across humanity. Together, let us ensure that human flourishing is not merely an aspiration, but a shared reality for generations to come.

28. On that note, it is now my great pleasure and privilege to officially inaugurate the **Roundtable Discussion on “Multi-Faith Partnership in Praxis for Human Flourishing and Dignity.”**

Thank You.