

# Merdeka

FIFTH EDITION

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## THE STORY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE

63 years ago, when the clock struck midnight on the **31st of August**, the flag of the Union Jack was lowered, the Jalur Gemilang rose to the highest vantage point of Merdeka Square. The chants of 'Merdeka' filled the air at dawn, Malaysians of all races, ecstatic and hopeful, gathered and witnessed the birth of their nation. Sarawak and Sabah joined our family 6 years later. After over 200 years of British colonialism, we were finally free, Tunku Abdul Rahman echoed the hopes of building a prosperous nation, respected in the eyes of the world. Fast forward to the present, his wisdom is still as relevant, we have come a long way as a nation, with many ups and downs in the journey of nationhood.



We became a beacon of hope in the region, with rapid industrialisation, millions were lifted out of poverty, we enjoyed far better standards of living than that of our forefathers.

Our achievements put us on the map, with a national car that rivals that of Japan and Germany, world-class ports and airports, and towering skyscrapers and infrastructure marking the apex of our civilisation. Our society is a melting pot of various cultures, values and traditions, we find strength in our differences and aid each other in times of turmoil. These are the fruits of our independence, and we should protect what we have built for many years to come.

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Our nation and people have been through dark times, we turned against each other in many episodes of racial riots, which resulted in many injuries and deaths. The alleged stifling of freedom of speech and corruption has led to many series of protests against our government. This along with the current political uncertainty and pandemic placed our people through a test of resilience. To persevere, we must muster our strength and hold on to our core values that brought us to where we are today. We must unite under our strong sense of national pride and reject people who aim to divide us and cause discord in our harmonious, multiracial society. We must not shy away from discussing these controversial topics, to move forward, we must heed lessons on our past misdeeds and shortcomings or history will repeat itself.

We have a responsibility to propel our country to greater heights, whether abroad or at home, young or old. We can do so by effectively playing our roles. If you are a student, glean as much knowledge as possible; if you are a doctor, strive to deliver the best care to your patients; if you are a worker, optimise your capabilities and services to excel in your careers. National Day does not have to last only for a day, we can and should have our country in mind in every action and decisions that we make.



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*What is the spirit of Malaysia without some good nature fun?*

## STATE STEREOTYPES

**Perlis:** Small

**Kedah:** Rice bowl

**Penang:** Bad drivers

**Perak:** Hor Fun

**Selangor:** Rich state

**Negeri Sembilan:** Beach

**Melaka:** History

**Johor:** TMJ

**Pahang:** Highlands

**Terengganu:** Sea Turtles

**Kelantan:** Sweet Food

**Sarawak & Sabah:** Part of Malaysia meh????!! :'(

*Thank you for reading this newsletter and Selamat Hari Merdeka!*

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