

MERDEKA

DEAR 2ND SUBANG JAYA, HAPPY MERDEKA DAY!



Back in July 2019, E&A

A Merdeka different from the past

This year's Merdeka Day will be unlike any others in the past.

For the first time there will be no parade in Dataran Merdeka. For the first time, no fighter jets will scream past Dataran Merdeka. And for the first time, we are staying at home under MCO on Merdeka Day.

Malaysia is a country, just another one out of another 195 countries on Google Maps. But it's our country. In recent days, it may be easy to replay unpleasant words that we hear about this country of ours. So, it was time we turned to a handful of members in our company to see what they themselves think.

Hopefully by the end of this little message, we will be reminded where 2nd Subang Jaya, its members, officers and leaders stand with our blood. Maybe we can be reminded of the sovereignty of our nation, and how important we must cling onto it, with each of our identities.

To our dear senior section, you all have all you need to view this post, and act on our hearts together. To our dear junior and lovable pre-juniors, parents, this is for your young ones too!

Words of our members

Some members of our company have generously contributed their thoughts and feelings on what they feel today.

A huge thanks to all who have contributed!

Amidst the news and rumors

It's important that we be honest when considering any identity and where you want your heart to be. With this, a Lance Corporal clearly writes her thoughts when we are faced with the unpleasantness of the news, but still holding on to an anchored belief.

"I am certainly grateful that we are able to live together in harmony and in peace. Of course, there are so many things we can improve on as a country. In view of the coming independence day, I sincerely hope that we will grow together to bring our homeland to a brighter future. Let us not be discouraged by rumors and negative occasions that happened in the past because there are more good of this country than we know."

Blessed

"Born as a Malaysian, I feel very honored. Malaysia is a wonderful country which is free of natural disasters and full of distinct cultures."

Living in Unity

Another member cheerfully recalls the atmosphere of celebrations.

"Merdeka day is a day where I feel the country is united as one. It is not a celebration of race or religion, it's something all of us Malaysians can celebrate together. A fond memory I remember from primary school was the beautiful adornments in the "dewan", where students would gather to celebrate Merdeka together."

"There was always this feeling of a very joyful atmosphere, maybe part of it was because we got to have the last periods of class off, but it was also a joy and pride to sing our national anthem and other songs together. Merdeka is a day where we put away our difference. On that day, there's no Malay, Indian, Chinese dan lain-lain. There are only Malaysians :)

Relating it to everyday life not just today, it is the pride of Malaysians. Nearly no other nation can so proudly share so much in common, food, culture, life, friendship. Many tourists who come to Malaysia actually admire how we speak so many different languages, eat so many different types of food but yet we still live as neighbors in the same Taman, study in the same school.

Protected and Sovereign

It is indeed a privilege, as a proud member says:

“I have never viewed my Malaysian citizenship highly as a child, but growing up, it became more evident that as a Malaysian citizen, I am privileged to enjoy the protection and freedom of an independent country.”

This Lance Corporal sees the importance of being an independent Malaysia:

“I think being a Malaysian is very lucky, because our country is an independent country. We will not be treated unfairly or get bullied by other countries. Many countries that are not independent have to be ruled by other countries. The people of these countries have no freedom and are unable to make decisions for their own country.”

Summing up the spirit and significance

The long-awaited summary, well worded by another spirited member.

“Celebrating Merdeka each year to me symbolises our progress as a country. For no matter what religion, race, or age you are, if you're Malaysian, you have the right to be proud of it. To be proud of where we have reached, how far we have gone, and how far we're willing to go. For a country is nothing without its people, and it's our responsibility as Malaysians to show the world what our mighty country has to offer.”

So then, as people of this free nation, let us continue to express love, respect, and appreciation for one another, not forgetting our identities as citizens of His nation, but embracing the underlying importance.



As Malaysians, we are independent, standing up with our own forces. Un-swayed.



Mejar Goh Kheng Loon and his co-pilot.

The bible's stance

Galatians 5:13 says: “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” This was Paul's letter to the Galatians, calling them to live in the freedom that comes with faith in Christ. Remember, salvation by faith is attributed solely to Christ and His works, and not at all on our actions. Therefore, while living in this freedom, we serve the purpose of reflecting His amazing love to the people around us by serving them. Through this, it becomes apparent that loving and adoring our multiracial community goes beyond the fragile bubble of peace and harmony. It touches on our duty as Christians to spread His marvelous love and to let His glory shine, always.

Are we like this?

A REAL STORY BY MEJAR GOH.

Mejar Goh Kheng Loon, commanding officer of TUDM's No 18 Skuadron F/A-18D, which include hornet fighter jets.

He said in an interview with Harian Metro that many people think that our armed forces only make noises during shows, but don't have what it takes to actually fight in a war.

Once, at the Langkawi International Maritime Airshow (LIMA), Mejar Goh overheard a group of boys making fun of TUDM's forces. Imagine how hurtful or humiliating that was, knowing that is what so many of the 'rakyat' think of your plane. The boys said that it's all noise! If it were to be a real war, TUDM had no chance...

Of course, Mejar Goh replied out loud in the cafeteria: “Those noises make us alive, do you want our country to be at war?” Rounds of applause sounded in the café. This isn't just another story. This isn't just about how strong our air force is. It's about how we think. Let's learn to be proud of our country.

1 Peter 2:17: “Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.”

A member who stayed in 2 countries

Whenever I think of Malaysia, I think of a small country with plenty of big hearts.

You'll find warm hospitality wherever you go. And of course, let's not forget the veritable cornucopia of cuisines that are served here. The food here has indeed made a big impression on tourists who had come to visit.

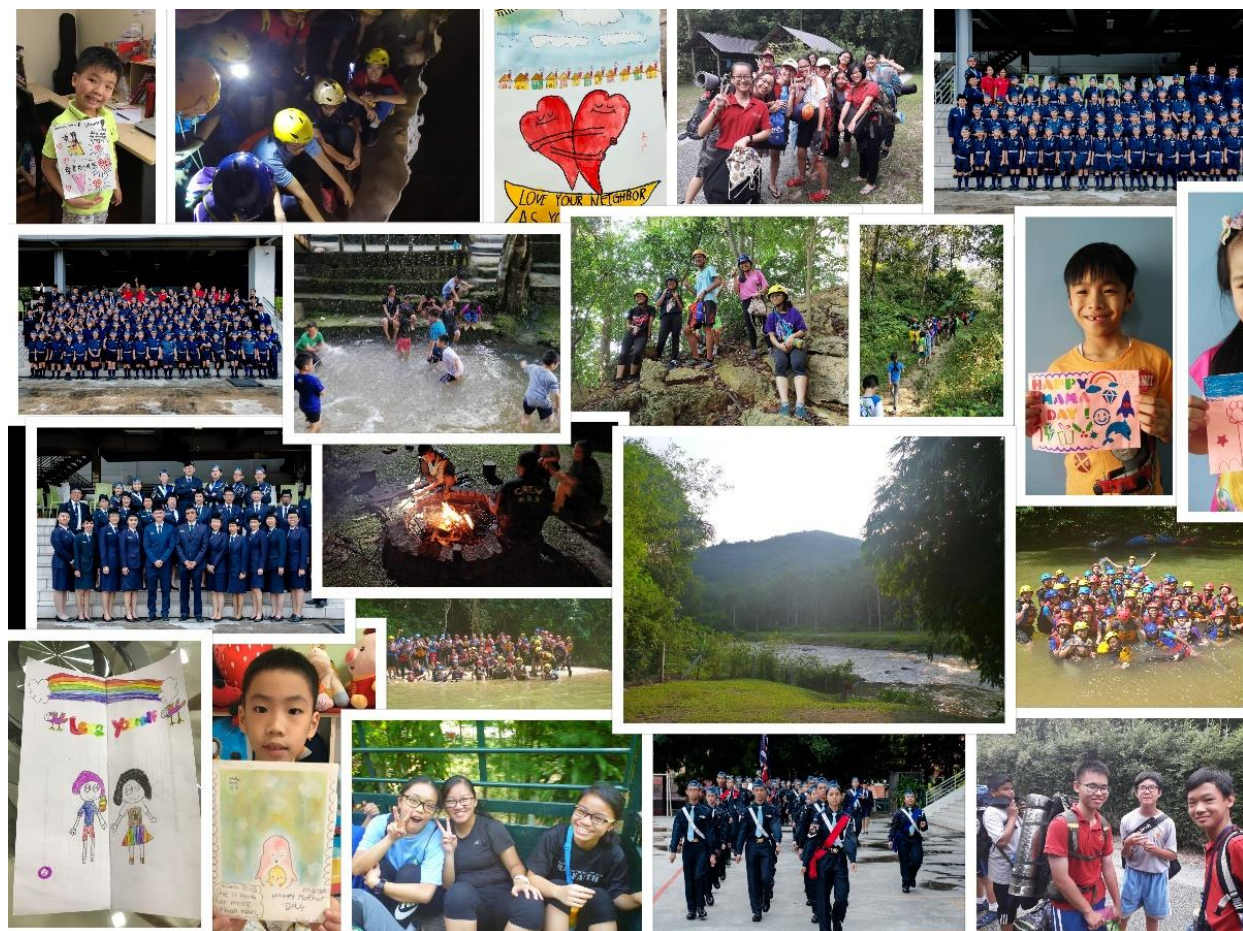
I find the acceptance of different religions and races here beautiful, and I love how Malaysians uplift and appreciate each race/religion with the simplest things: wearing and appreciating each other's traditional clothes, enjoying each culture's cuisines and celebrating each race's festivals.

I had the noteworthy opportunity to stay long term in 2 countries: China (7 years) and Malaysia (7 years), and I must say nowhere feels most like home other than Malaysia. The comfort of our tropical weather always puts me at ease. Happy Merdeka to all my fellow Malaysians around the country! Although this year's Merdeka celebrations have been scaled back due to the pandemic, let's take this day to appreciate our beautiful country and past ancestors who fought for our independence.

Taking pride in our identity

A member highlights what it means to be Malaysian:

“Let us gratefully appreciate the peacefulness and diversity of life that Malaysia has offered to us. We as Malaysians, should humbly wave our “Jalur Gemilang” and shout “Merdeka!” in pride to display our patriotism and love towards our country. I would like all of us to start cherishing our rich cultures and acknowledge who we are and what we identify as.” **In one voice, we shall say: “Malaysia boleh!”**



All of us look forward till we can meet again, for now, Happy Merdeka!