

Tanggal 31, bulan lapan, 57. Merdeka, Merdeka'. At the school compound, we gather, all holding the mini national flags which were distributed to us by our class teacher. As we sing this song while waving the flag, I realize how lucky I am to have been born here and to be a part of this unique country.

I am at a loss for words when it comes to my passion for Malaysia. I appreciate the fact that different races can coexist harmoniously and live peacefully as 1 Malaysia. I am glad for having been educated to value cultural variety and I was raised to respect people of all races. I adore how our citizens embrace diversity while upholding the language, individuality, religion and culture of each race while being unified as a whole. I love the gorgeous landscape of this charming country, the wonderful vacation destinations, the myriad of cuisines and so much more.

The Federation of Malaya declared its independence from British colonial authority on 31st August 1957, establishing Malaysia as we know it today. This occasion is considered to be one of the most important and unforgettable moments in Malaysian history. As such, the 31st of August is our national public holiday to celebrate and honour the accomplished freedom and independence. It is the ideal day to express our gratitude to our country and to serve as a reminder that we must stand united for its development. As a student, we are the future of Malaysia, thus we must study hard in order to be excellent students and role models for others.

Two words come to my mind when I think about independence, “responsibility” and “choice”. The Russo-Ukrainian War, where people were suffering from the effects of war, having no choice, no freedom and frequently no dignity, made me understand how fortunate we are to have what we have in Malaysia and therefore we should try our best to sustain it. Being a responsible person denotes learning to look out for oneself, one's family and ultimately one's community. Through independence, people also have the chance to make their own choices about how they aspire to live, how they wish to make a livelihood and how they build a future for themselves. In our country, people have the freedom to experience different lifestyles, meet new people and decide where and how they want to live the life they desire to. But in the end, everyone should be responsible for their own choices and decisions.

In a nutshell, all Malaysians should pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the security forces by celebrating Hari Merdeka in a spirit of patriotism and love for our country. Let us celebrate our Independence Day full of thankfulness and pleasure while treasuring the glory of Malaysia!