

‘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 look around the hall and took in the scene of everyone singing in unison. I find the scene to be overwhelming and amusing at the same time. Overwhelmed by the grandness and harmony of all sounds merging into one, full of patriotism and raw power; amusing, because I know that this will be the only day everyone will sing with such might when singing patriotic songs. At least that is what I have experienced during my whole lifetime singing patriotic songs in school.

All jokes aside, I am always grateful to be born in Malaysia. I have come across many people who want to work outside of our country after graduation and I have heard Malaysians complaining about our Malaysian currency decreasing over time. However, I believe that deep down inside we all love our beloved homeland, Malaysia. Malaysia is truly a unique and beautiful country, and one where I can truly feel at home. I would not deny that living in a first world country is tempting but who dare say that a first world country is the best place to live in. No matter how far we go, home will still be the last stop we longed for after the tiring journey of what we call life.

Malaysia, the country that is made from communities of different ethnicities. Our ancestors were bonded by past wars and fought as one for the independence of our country. My generation from the 2000s onwards may not have experienced real war, but we know how damaging wars are to the people and the world. We know through our history books, from tales passed down from generation to generation, from documentaries, and memoirs of our ancestors who fought bravely and strong, sacrificing themselves with blood, sweat and tears, all for the safety of future generations. For the world to finally be in peace, and for everyone to be able to live happily and to not suffer the hardships they did.

Malaysia, a country so diverse and balanced. We are known for our food, culture, and nature. We celebrate and embrace all our cultures. We merge our cuisines and give birth to delicious delicacies. We live and grow together like brothers and sisters. When one is in danger, we will stand united to protect those who dare harm our kin. We will have fights as all siblinghood do, but at the end of the day, we will still love each other and accept the good and the flaws of one another. Malaysia, thank you for existing and being my origin country.

‘ Saya cintaimu Malaysia, tanah airku. Selamat Hari Kemerdekaan ke-65 Malaysia!’

I love you, Malaysia, my beloved homeland. Happy 65th Independence Day Malaysia!