

Theme: Gratitude

Tanggal 31, bulan 8, 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 am reminded of the beautiful country I live in. Malaysia, a diverse country, is unquestionably a blessing with several cuisine alternatives available throughout the day. Malaysia's multiculturalism is also reflected in workplaces that foster harmony and diversity.

Aside from that, the culture of a certain race is deemed significant since it reflects the culture itself and should be carefully preserved. For example, during my school days, both Indians and non-Indians learned the Indian cultural dance, Bharatanatyam. As a result, Malaysians will have a better knowledge of the ethnic groups' cultural and aesthetic heritage. Our school had a good Cultural enhancement and the student's parents were supportive enough to let their children learn a dance that belongs to a different race.

Moving on, I consider myself quite fortunate to reside in such a peaceful nation as Malaysia. I do not have to be concerned about war or major political issues. We can still live with appropriate food, water, housing, education, and other fundamental necessities. Consider living in Ukraine, which saw major hostilities with Russia in 2014, with many people forced to flee to neighboring nations and many of whom perished. Despite the fact that it is a multicultural country, we work together and live peacefully. For example, if there is an accident along the roadside, people of various races and religious backgrounds join and support one another despite their differences. Diversity of races, religions, and cultures is a significant characteristic of our nation.

Furthermore, I have observed Malaysians' togetherness and beauty when my Muslim neighbor and my grandmother frequently share dishes prepared particularly for joyful occasions. Not to mention, my neighbor is of great help as she looks after my elderly grandma when there is no one to take care of her. Merdeka also reminds me of my grandma telling me about life, the sacrifices made, the hardships met and overcome in order to enjoy the freedom and liberties of a democratic nation, as well as the economic joys that the people did not have before Independence Day.

The popular adage reads, "A choir is made up of many different voices. If one by one all go silent then all that will be left are the soloists. Do not let a loud few determine the nature of the sound. It makes for poor harmony and diminishes the song." There is a truism in this concept anything can be done if we are one and united with each other. In order to be a better nation, we Malaysians need to come together as one and always be there for each other as the saying goes "United we stand, Divided we fall". Lastly, I would like to conclude my essay by noting that, I appreciate Malaysia and I am extremely fortunate to be a Malaysian.

(500 words)