

## **NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach our National Day we bring to mind the profound words of the Bible that calls us as Christians to be loyal citizens by submitting to governing authorities, “for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1) The way that Christians are called to live their loyalty is to strive to live a life of holiness of heart and life. Our love for all must be genuine, and must be shared with all people. So we are encouraged; “Live in harmony with one another, do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” (Romans 12:16-18). We are called as Christians to accept the challenges of our times by manifesting an unwavering hope in God who watches over us and is faithful. God also invites us to be a people energized by the Holy Spirit to show care and engage in good deeds so that our example will invite respect and praise for Christ who has called us to be His church in the world. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

The National Day is indeed an opportune time for the Christian Community to continue expressing with all other Malaysians of the different ethnic and religious communities our deep and unreserved praise and thanks to God, the Creator of all, for the blessings of peace and prosperity that he has showered upon our nation in these forty-five years since our independence. The Churches in Malaysia holds firmly to its vision of a just and harmonious nation under God is shared by all people of other faiths. Such a vision obligates the Christians to be ever aware that we are called to be God’s instruments of love and peace towards all.

Sustaining the spirit of love and harmony towards all, is not something that has come by so easily in our history. The founding fathers of the nation, guided and endowed by the blessing of God, proposed the grand and committed vision, that the strength and glory of our nation, can only lie in a common commitment towards a democratic society, where every ethnic group and religious community is respected and all called upon to build unity in a spirit of mutual understanding and peaceful co-existence. All these years we have learnt that our national well-being depends critically on an active consensus of religious harmony held together by a cherished notion of a shared destiny for the common good.

We are thankful for a Government and its leaders who since our independence have strived to live by to the Merdeka Constitution of 1957 and have sought in many ways to uphold the democratic and religiously harmonious nature of our nation.

In spite of many external and internal threats, our leaders of goodwill have worked through the racial and religious divide to forge national integration and in the process transformed our nation as a model to many of harmonious living in a diverse population. The churches have and will continue to work hard and contribute towards the national project of building a caring society where such moral ideals of the respect of life, freedom, justice, peace and the protection of our environment will continue to guide all our actions.

Therefore, as we celebrate the forty-fifth anniversary of our national day, all Christians are called:

- *To give thanks* to Almighty God for all His blessings of love, peace, political stability and prosperity upon our nation and its people. In the spirit of prayer and fasting to invoke God's blessings of righteousness upon our nation
- *To extend* our warmest congratulations to His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen, the Sultans, the Government and the people of Malaysia.
- *To renew* our commitment to work with all other Malaysians to live by and uphold the principles of the Rukunegara.
- *To commend and encourage* our churches in their continuing efforts to be true ambassadors of Christ by safeguarding and promoting freedom and harmony among all people and to mobilize and use all its spiritual and human resources to do good in the quest of lasting peace and prosperity of our country.

The Christian Federation of Malaysia also calls the Government of Malaysia;

- *To continue* to pursue the policy of national integration as envisaged by our founding fathers in the social contract that lies at the basis of our Merdeka Constitution.
- *To continue to act* against attempts by some to misuse religion for domination and to assert apartness which has profoundly affected the delicate fabric of harmony in a multiethnic and multireligious society.
- *To resist* the attempts by some to manipulate religious symbols and idioms for political gain should be resisted and never tolerated.
- *To encourage* on-going efforts to promote open and honest dialogue between the different faith communities that foster a common ethical ground for a new society where the basic rights of all are enhanced.
- *To ensure* that the various religious faiths are taught in our schools as moral education and spiritual guidance are the best possible weapons in tackling the social ills that is destroying the moral fabric of our society.

As the Christian community in Malaysia,

*We direct* our vision and spiritual energy towards godliness, trusting that He calls us to be a blessing to the nation. By our good deeds, we should reveal to all our sincere commitment towards faith in God and goodwill among all people to the glory of God, now and forever.

The Executive Committee  
The Christian Federation of Malaysia  
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