

## COMMENT

# Protect good work done by so many

## A BLESSED NATION:

Every citizen, however lowly, has a right to life, dignity, peace and happiness

**O**RINARY Malaysians want harmony and peace. They want opportunities to provide a good education for their children and employment, with the dignity of labour.

They want food, shelter and the enjoyment of ordinary things in life. They do not plan supremacist ideologies or extremist views regarding interactions with others.

In fact, they want their children to interact and be friends and bond with other children from different ethnic groups, religions and cultures. They celebrate diversity, acceptance and respect. Beyond that, they want honour and dignity. They have developed a Malaysian identity and are well towards oneness in Malaysian nationhood.

Increasingly, however, there are a few non-governmental leaders and individuals who have alternative views of national identity, nationhood and definitions of future scenarios.

They are bent on humiliation of fellow citizens and others who are not like them. They are self-righteous regarding their ideas, beliefs and ideologies. Increasingly, they become determined to achieve their agenda at whatever costs.

There are transgressors of religious codes of relationships and constitutional principles in a multiracial state.

Testing the limits of God's laws, human realms of justice and foundations of federalism is not the way to building a virtuous Malaysian society.

There are people who do not care about national integration or national unity, but care more for their own ambition and for the discord they can create.

The ruling power should take heed and not allow these few with a sectarian agenda to destroy a state that has been built over the last 50 years or so.

The country belongs to all, not just to self-defined leaders who want to mould the nation in their distorted image of their heroic egotistical selves.

Every citizen, however humble, has a right to life, dignity, peace and the pursuit of happiness without threats or humiliation.

Malaysians from all ethnic

groups and religions, who have travelled abroad and seen life in other societies, do feel and express that Malaysia, as it is today, is a blessed nation.

This blessed nation has good leaders who uphold justice and work hard to address many of the problems of nationhood, particularly national unity, elimination of poverty and raising the quality of life.



**Datuk Dr Ibrahim Ahmad Bahamid** is deputy vice-chancellor of INTL Laureate International University

In contemporary society, when particular ethnic or religious groups want others out of a country, they conduct ethnic cleansing, persecution, oppression, cultural assimilation, forced religious conversions and apartheid.

All it needs is for some shortsighted and extremist members to incite chaos, which will be followed by widespread irrationality of mass hysteria and destruction of property, life, liberties and goodwill. To date as a nation, Malaysia has stood against these excesses.

There are many aspects of ways of life and policy initiatives where Sarawakians and Sabahans are more advanced than their counterparts from the peninsula.

Generally, Sabahans and Sarawakians are not keen on extremist and intolerant ideologies. They have no love for those who



**Sabahans and Sarawakians are generally not keen on extremist ideologies, thanks to their cultural diversity and tolerance for all ethnic groups.**

want to achieve their political ambitions at whatever costs to the nation as a whole.

Those who would be leaders must understand the nature of federalism and not impose their ideologies and brand of intolerance on fellow citizens.

Reckless lesser leaders must not be allowed to cause concern to their brethren in Sabah and Sarawak by cavalier ambitions to export intolerance across the sea. Those lesser leaders, who trivialise, dismiss, alienate, debunk and threaten others, must not be allowed to do so with impunity.

The silent majority has as much right to national harmony as those who are ambitious and engaged in political play and ego-media blitzkrieg. Publicity seeking lesser leaders with no substantive contributions to society or humankind cannot build a strong nation effectively.

The consequences of the deconstructive agenda of lesser leaders will lead to a failed nation. There are now emerging leaders from dif-

ferent sides of the political divides and domains who are asserting, "Enough is enough!"

There are so many good things going on in the country.

Malaysian passports are among the most respected, Malaysian scientists are among the many influential scientific minds, Malaysian diplomats exercise constructive roles in diplomacy, Malaysian armed forces keep peace in several conflict areas in the world, Malaysian development initiatives are emulated by other nations.

A host of other examples of contributions have incrementally made Malaysia among the best places to live and work in.

Let not a few ambitious ideologies and extremists who have really not made substantive contributions in fostering peace and uniting the nation destroy what others have painstakingly built over the years. Lesser leaders must not be allowed to turn a blessed nation into a cursed nation.

• [labain@yahoo.com](mailto:labain@yahoo.com)