

Drawing lessons from Scotland

COMPATRIOTS, ALL:

There is no clear reason for discord between Malaysians from the peninsula and those in Sabah and Sarawak, and we should not act detrimentally to affect our good relations

ORANG Malaya were actually like orang Sabah and Sarawak. But, five decades of development and zest for success have created confusion and contradictions in values and thus in many ways of life.

It has also created individuals and groups, political and non-governmental, which are gung ho to achieve their own constructed goals without care and respect for other people. The machinery of media and mobility have spread several ideas and espoused "principles" which are not acceptable to the peoples of Sabah and Sarawak.

The peoples of Malaysia are happy with the Malaysian nation. They are not happy with relations

and organisations that espouse and act with disregard for their rights in so many significant ways, in reality or in perception.

It is the responsibility of the good people of Malaya to restrain some of their compatriots from making prejudicial statements that would upset the significant others. Orang Sabah and Sarawak proudly, sincerely and repeatedly state that throughout their states, people from different ethnic and language groups and religions would be seen to comfortably engage with each other in the market places, offices, coffee shops, sports fields, entertainment spaces and homes. Orang Malaya are increasingly losing this capacity for multicultural social bonding while telling the world that we are truly Asia.

There are several contentions, historic and symbolic. One such contention is that Sabah and Sarawak did not join Malaysia. Together with Singapore and the Federation of Malaya, they formed Malaysia on Sept 16, 1963.



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Like those from Malaya, Sarawakians and Sabahans have their own local heroes and patriots who have suffered under colonial and occupying regimes and who have fought for freedom.

We have threats within and from outside that could tear the fabric of our Federalism, and so, must be mindful of this reality and not act detrimentally towards the nation. Let no individual or group disrupt, damage, or destroy the identity of being "Malaysian" the past gen-

erations have fostered. Political, religious and cultural zealots are not stakeholders in nation building because they have other agenda.

After being in the United Kingdom for 307 years, Scotland sought independence and a referendum was held on Sept 18, 2014. After the results, the United Kingdom's Prime Minister, David Cameron, noted:

"The people of Scotland have spoken. It is a clear result. They have kept our county of four nations together. Like millions of other people, I am delighted. It would have broken my heart to see our United Kingdom end. ... But also around the world — because of what we've achieved together in the past and what we can do together in the future.

"A vital part of that will be a balanced settlement — fair to people in Scotland, and importantly to everyone in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as well."

Deviationist stakeholders are interested only in their own agenda for themselves and their circles.

We have the capacity to be a proud nation, an example to the world, if we cherish the vision of our founding fathers and not allow zealots to unfairly redefine ideologies and nationhood in spirit and substance not acceptable to the majority of the peoples as the whole and to various stakeholder communities. There is so much that a strong multiracial, multicultural and united Malaysia can together do for humanity.

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