



BULLETIN

September–October 2024 ISSUE



YBhg Dato' Santhananaban M (Exco) insightfully shares his well wishes & hopes with Malaysians

Salute, Emulate

The Spirit of Social Cohesion of Sabah & Sarawak

Warmest greetings and best wishes for the 61st anniversary of the formation of Malaysia. The formation of Malaysia in September 1963 was of epochal significance because the original Federation of Malaya became part of a significantly larger territorial land mass. Although the bulk of

the population of the new political entity was resident in the peninsula, Malaysia acquired a well recognised status as a nation of a greater presence and prominence with pronounced pluralism.

It was the harmony, high mindedness and remarkable respect for the leadership of our first prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra that enabled the young Malayan nation to evolve into something grander- a viable, variegated and relatively vast agglomeration with significantly expanded and extensive resources. It was a peaceful progression that gave

the nation gravitas, a greater personality, vitality and visibility on what is currently the world's most important international waterway.

We have acquired an unobtrusive but strategic, unique presence but our full potential has yet to realised.

It has to be acknowledged that the sovereign nations of Brunei, and Singapore- the latter after 23 months of participation in this grand Malaysia experiment- the two entities that stayed out have achieved spectacular stability, growth and relatively astounding per capita incomes.

Malaysia, on its part has maintained peace, stability and has also achieved impressive progress in the important areas of education, health, infrastructure, rural development and poverty eradication.

But in the area of social cohesion and understanding Sabah and Sarawak are somewhat free of the problems that plague the peninsula. The spirit of acceptance, ambience, abiding amity, forgiveness, mutual respect, unity and understanding that exists within the communities of Sabah and Sarawak is particularly exceptional and laudable. In contrast the peninsula, that once famous harmonious hallmark of peace and understanding of the Tunku's era has evolved into a dubious domain of distrust and division with pockets of extremism, and an unceasing, unrelenting attempt by certain quarters to dictate, dominate and divide. Voices for moderation, mutual respect and

temperance are being sidelined by politicians agitating for power and influence. Explosive ethnicity issues and extremism in religious injunctions seem to undermine any reasonable hope for inclusiveness, integration and increased mutual trust.

Leaders of the inclusive governance culture of the Tunku, Tun Dr Ismail Dato Abdul Rahman, Tun Hussein Onn, Tun Mohammad Fuad Stephens, Tan Sri Khir Johari, Tan Sri Adenan Satem and even Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz have become a rarity.

The course that we should emulate is that path set by these leaders and the communities of Sabah and Sarawak. The peninsula must regain the moral high ground it had demonstrated in Malaysia's early days with leaders of integrity, inclusiveness, moderation and accommodation. Malaysia has to go back to reinventing itself to provide a respectable place for all Malaysians regardless of their origin and overly

obsessive partialities. We cannot afford to waste time and energy quibbling and quarrelling about the love and loyalty our people have for the nation in a very competitive regional and international environment.

Any attempt to intimidate, injure the feelings of any particular culture and insinuate that someone is less than Malaysian must be stopped. The government must concentrate on strengthening national unity, trust and understanding and focus on those key educational and economic priorities that will enable us to be a redoubtable, resilient and respected nation.

M Santhanaban

September 16, 2024

A poignant message shared by Major Manisegaran (Rtd) - EXCO



*Here is an episode of
Muhibah
(Harmony) ala
Malaysia:*

The Indian man on the pavement had just recovered after he had fainted earlier. He was helped by Caring Malaysians who went the extra mile to help him and his worried wife.

A Chinese man not in the photo rushed to get him a 'Milo' drink.

The two Malay ladies kept watch on him.

Another Chinese girl (also) not in the photo kept asking him about his blood profile, particularly if he was a diabetic.

When he wanted to walk back home, we advised him against it. While I got busy typing to Grab Service, one of the Malay ladies told me not to bother as her husband was on the way with his car to send the Indian couple home.

Today is Malaysia Day.

Viva Malaysia!



‘NEW LOOK’ for PATRIOT MEMBERS

In an effort to forge ahead with the progressions within PATRIOT, and to add to its growing presence and relevance for Members’ interest vis-à-vis for a greater nationhood, a new uniform is being considered.

As stated by the President, “Uniforms are integral to the spirit of rising to the demands of delivering meaningful service”, this new look uniform makes a statement of the times, reflecting an inspiration to rise to the demands of service above self.



PATRIOT joins fellow Malaysians in celebrating our independence

— Zarazilah Mohd Ali

National Patriot Association takes opportunity to share a meaningful celebration with citizens PATRIOT takes this opportunity on this 67th anniversary of our National Independence Day, Merdeka, to share with every nation building citizen a meaningful celebration.

Indeed 31 August also marks our countdown to Malaysia Day that falls on 16 September.

As citizens we all have a stake in determining our nation's future.

That future has been in motion for 67 years, a period of pains, fears, joys and hopes.

Reality dictates that nation building is never devoid of pains and fears.

But our history continues to inspire us that the joys and hopes we Malaysians share is what keeps our flag high.

PATRIOT will continue its mission to champion those hopes that will keep our democratic and constitutional monarchy as sturdy pillars of progress and development.

PATRIOT will walk with every true Malaysian in ensuring that the next generation will have

many reasons to be joyful.

Naysayers, the corrupt and divisive agents will not escape the eyes of every patriot.

Our multiracial, multi religious, multicultural and rich traditions will be our bricks of the future nationhood – the undefeatable strengths of “Malaysia for Malaysians”.

We thank every media that has played its part towards this end.

We will demand from every politician to respect that this nation is on loan to them to return to every citizen, further enriched.

We will walk with every right minded citizen, marshalling our collective strengths to catheterise corruption – in any form or manner, as corrupt Malaysians are our nation's worst enemy.

Viva Malaysia. *Selamat menyambut Hari Merdeka dan Hari Malaysia 2024.*
– August 31, 2024

The Scoop, 31 August, 2024



The Star newspaper featured our President Lt Col Dato' Zarazilah (Rtd) and Founder President Brigadier General Dato' Arshad and Deputy President Deputy Commissioner of Police Dato' Zulkifli (Rtd) in commemorating Nasial Day 2024.



Remembering Birthdays and finding the opportunity to share well wishes is a tradition observed by EXCO.

Happy Birthday Datin Julini and Many Happy Returns of the Day from all of us at PATRIOT.

Reproduced here below is an insightful and thought-provoking article for the benefit of Members:

HOW PREPARED AND READY ARE WE?

***Dato' Kamaruddin
Mohd Jamal***

The overall handling of the Lahad Datu incursions continues to be somewhat of a puzzle if not an outright mystery of sort to me. This incident of such daring hostility and violation of our territory by some armed force from outside the country in the face of our security forces remains with its many troubling questions not fully answered in my mind.

As a soldier at heart still, I cannot help wishing I knew exactly what happened; what went perfectly, what went less so, what did not,

or what went disastrously and shamefully wrong.

I was once based at the Kennedy Bay Timber Company enclave, some forty-five minutes boat ride east from Lahad Datu, with my area of responsibility stretching from that point all the way east through Sahabat (at that time still called Sabahat) and Tunku, to just short of Tanjung Labian. I had a platoon each in Sahabat and Tunku, while the third was with me at my Company HQ. The area as such, has always been, and still is, a very real and very fond part of my many past recollections as a soldier tasked to guard our frontier.

Thus, the Lahad Datu incursions, smack right in the middle of my once area of responsibility, had so much meaning and significance for me. And now, with the whole episode

reasonably in the past and somewhat settled, perhaps it would be less sensitive to fully dwell on it and share what and how I feel about the whole incident, and also touch on whatever possible wider related issues there might have been at play and their possible, perhaps even likely, related wider ramifications.

When I first heard of the incursions, I was sure the “wannabe invading force” would be wiped out within a few days, if not hours. For whatever reasons, this did not happen. I was disappointed; very disappointed. I was deeply troubled too – troubled that our response, for what it might mean, had not produced the outcome I had expected and what should rightly have been.

While not in any way meaning to be critical of anyone or any organization specifically, I could not help wondering what exactly went

wrong; or had not gone the way they should have. Certainly both the duration it took to bring the situation under control and the cost in casualties were far in excess of what I thought should have been the case. And this is not to mention the squabbling at the higher-up decision-making level that was said or heavily rumoured to have taken place at the opening stage of the incident. This is, of course, assuming such an unthought-of thing did indeed happen.

As I had always understood it, the handling of any intrusion into our territory by any clearly organized armed force from outside the country (and in this case in uniform at that, while also openly and blatantly announcing who they were) need no more “consultations or negotiations” of ANY KIND or with

ANYONE. Even my Corporal Section Commanders of the time would have known exactly what to do; and would have done what had needed doing.

These intruders, depending on the circumstances of first contact, would have, at best, been given a clear choice of immediately surrendering and be taken prisoners; or they get wiped out. That had always been my understanding of how to handle a situation as clear-cut as in this case.

Of course the procedures could have changed since then, and our security forces guarding our frontier might now be saddled with different requirements before being able to engage these would-be invaders. If that was the case, then all I can say is that the new procedure sucks big time, and clearly had not worked well at all – and worst, had made

it very difficult and obviously also more risky and costly for the defenders of our homeland.

I’m sure those ultimately responsible have already looked into the details of this incident and the less-than-perfect response that had led to this totally undeserved, shameful, and costly black-eye. I’m sure the effort and necessary actions in finding out where we had gone wrong is already well underway, if not even already fully undertaken and gainfully resolved. I sincerely hope all and whatever weaknesses contributing to this tragic situation have already been thoroughly corrected and made good. I also very much hope everything necessary have been done to make sure we would never again see a repeat of such a tragedy – for clearly a tragedy it is whenever lives are needlessly

lost when they might have been avoided.

What I thought might still not have been asked and might need looking into and seriously evaluated, apart from the operational, procedural, technical, or tactical “whys” is perhaps the macro and strategic overall “why”. Could there have been a more underlying systemic problem that had brought about these more than likely mere symptomatic “whys”? And if so, what might this be – what could this more than likely degenerating weakness be that had been the cause of it all, which might have likely led, as in this particular case, to this “less-than-perfect response” in the defense of our country?

Could this weakness have also impacted most, if not every other aspect of our performance as a people and as a whole nation in about

everything we do, right across the board? And if so, what could this underlying systemically debilitating problem possibly be; and what might its consequence be on us, and on our country and the nation as a whole?

One possible answer might just be simple unthinking national complacency; a degenerating complacency on the part of everyone generally; from the very top leadership down to the common men and women on the street. Could it be that even within the respective different functions, roles, and responsibilities spanning the entire nation, we are becoming less than what we can and rightly should be, both in doing and delivering what we are supposed to do and deliver, or in striving to be the best we can be in whatever role or function we

find ourselves in, or had chosen to be in?

Could this possible complacency in reality be something that had become more of a wide-ranging malady that we, with shrinking exceptions, as a people and as a nation, had been thoroughly afflicted with, quite unaware? Have we as a people and as a nation, again with shrinking exceptions, become less than what we can really be at the aggregate level? Have our values been subverted into expecting more from doing less? Have we, as a people, generally lost the needed pride, zeal, and desire in sincerely striving for the best in each of us in whatever we are supposed to do or have been entrusted with?

This can often be the case when the country has no outright visible physical threat on a prolonged basis. During the earlier post-independence

days of our painful struggle to find our footing while being plagued by a four-decade long Communist Emergency and the Kofrantasi, in each case threatening to bring down our government through force of arms, we had no choice but to give off nothing less than our absolute best at the individual level, as a people, and as a nation – and always with the fullest commitment, such spirit and professional pride, and untainted determination.

Today, there is nothing to challenge or threaten our nation to make us sufficiently sedar, insaf, dan beriltizam, to keep us “on our toes”, at our best, and diligently continuing to improve ourselves as a nation, true to our earlier spirit and values that had made us what we were.

Could this overall national complacency have taken its toll to

some telling extent on each and every one of us in every function and at every level? Could this complacency have affected whatever we are generally entrusted with and tasked to focus on and execute? Had it in some way watered down the effectiveness of the needed overall honing of our knowledge, skills, and competencies; or perhaps even the focus, pride, energy, and the needed total commitment behind our every effort in whatever we do?

Have we, in fact, been afflicted with a slow unconscious self-neglect that can only weaken us and undermine our true ability as a people and as a whole nation? Might there not be some underlying truth to this?

A prolonged and uninterrupted peace and progress can give rise to psychological indiscipline and

arrogant complacency, possibly even undermining and changing our values and priorities as a people over time. Might this not be the case with us, possibly without our even realizing it?

When soldiers think it is more fulfilling and rewarding to play politicians and businessmen; when politicians and senior civil servants think it is such fun to play at being Generals in glamorous uniforms without the battlefield risks; when almost anyone in position of authority thinks it is far more lucratively rewarding playing the role of middlemen and fixers; when leaders often go contrary to their sworn oaths of office; when power and authority, name and recognition, positions and material rewards become the end-all to aim for, often uncaringly by whatever means – and

when perhaps it is even fashionable and worth their while to squabble over who should manage, who should be in control, and who should have what authority over whom and what, is it not time to take a real close look at ourselves; and at what we have perhaps now become?

Think what this growingly more visible undisciplined and no longer “selfless” but “self-first” mindset would likely have at every level of our every function; think what this would do to the quality and the sanctity of every profession. Think how this impacts on our overall resilience and standards of performance, capability and value system as a people and as a nation; the Lahad Datu incident being simply more readily obvious because of the nature of the threat; but might just be as valid

an indicator and barometer of our national pride and spirit, as well as that of our present overall real performance and achievement as a whole nation.

Might this not be what could be afflicting our nation as a whole?

Let us think honestly and sincerely upon this. If there is any likely truth in this, let us try finding what can be done to correct the situation before it further degenerates into what could only become more of a permanent mindset, characteristic, and our dangerously destructive and ingrained new behavioral and cultural norms as a people and as a nation – a situation we seem to be slowly and inexorably sucked into. I sincerely believe this is a very likely real threat that we seem to be either uncaring about or totally unaware of.

In today’s global environment, any nation looking to do well would need its people, as a whole, to be generally imbued with the right mindset and values; continuously and increasingly willing, prepared and ready to perform always at their best in the pursuit of excellence in whatever and everything they do. This is the only likely option to not ending up stagnating and being quickly and readily eclipsed by others in the present global order of things.

Might this not be the unrealized real threat we should fully wake up to as a nation? Is this not more than sufficient threat that should make us get off our complacently squabbling bottoms and fight for our place in this ever increasingly competitive and globalized world? Is this not something we need to fully and effectively address

before we have
nothing much left to
squabble over in-
country?

Even if this threat
might not be as
readily visible, daily
felt, reported and
talked about, or as
threateningly obvious
as a wannabe
invading force
bristling with arms
trespassing into our
country all set to do
battle, this contagion
threat is perhaps even
far more crippling and
ruinous to the nation
and its future in the
longer term. Let us for
a moment just think
sincerely and
thoroughly on it.

IS THIS NOT, IN
EFFECT, A
CONTINUING
EXISTENTIAL
THREAT TO OUR
REAL AND TRUE
ABILITY AND
POTENTIAL AS A
PEOPLE AND AS A
NATION – THE
THREAT OF A
SLOW OVERALL
DEGENERATING
COMPLACENCY
AND SELF-
INFLICTED

MEDIOCRITY
THAT WE MIGHT
STILL BE, EVEN AS
OF NOW,
UNCARINGLY
UNAWARE OF,
AND MUCH LESS
WILLING TO
ADMIT TO?

This is a threat that
has been with us all
along, whether we
were even aware of it
or not – the same
ongoing threat that
our previous early
leaders had to contend
with throughout. It
was something they
had to continuously
battle to always be on
top of, leading to our
independence and
long after. It was what
they had to contend
with in building and
shaping the mindset
of our people and the
future of this country,
taking us to where we
were once on track to
be, and a nation much
admired by many.

These previous
leaders were generally
doing everything
possible with such
sincere commitment
and selfless
dedication, honesty

and integrity,
innovation, sincere
hard work and sound
planning, and
unquestioning loyalty
to the interest of the
nation and its people –
always, conscientiously,
and totally, above self
and all else.

They had clearly been
all-out doing whatever
and everything
possible in battling
this existential threat
– a threat, if not kept
totally at bay, which
can cripple our nation
much like many of
those less fortunate
that are constantly
struggling to stay
above water and be
counted.

It is an insidiously
ruinous threat that
would eventually lead
to neglect, abject
poverty, ignorance,
backwardness,
isolation, along with
all the problems such
a fate and climate
would readily breed;
chaos, in-fighting,
distrust, class-
struggles, lawlessness,
emigration, brain-
drain, and so much
more – and when, as a

people and as a nation, we would only be able to longingly fantasize and dream of prosperity, recognition, real peace, pride, respect, honour and dignity.

AN UNLIKELY
SCENARIO
PAINTED BY A
FLIGHTY AND
PERHAPS EVEN A
LESS THAN
STABLE MIND – A
FANTASY-BASED
SCARE-STORY
CONTRIVED AND
MADE TO SOUND
MORE
SOPHISTICATED
THAN THE USUAL
FAKE NEWS?

Think again – I remember a time when many Business Schools, including some very prominent ones, were studying the fast-track emerging nations around the world; and our country was one of those. They were studying and preaching what we were doing right. Today, if at all we are being looked at, it would be to see what

we have done to ourselves that should be guarded against and avoided at all cost – a one-time model nation today in the painful and sad throes of self-inflicted complacency, uncaring for excellence, of continuing declining values, mediocre performance, and with the mindset of quick and easy rewards.

IS THAT NOT
WHERE WE ARE
HEADING IF WE
ARE NOT
ALREADY THERE –
AND FAST
SLIDING FARTHER
DOWNHILL IN
THAT UTTERLY
RUINOUS
DIRECTION?

The presently less than stable in-country political situation and the perceptibly less than effective functioning of almost every aspect of what we do, the handling of the Lahad Datu incident being a glaring example, could well be the fallout from this same

ongoing threat that had been left unmanaged for at least more than a decade. This age-old continuing pernicious threat had simply been negligently overlooked, or possibly even deliberately and arrogantly disregarded by our present leadership, likely sidetracked by their personal ambitions and greed.

This has been quite a lengthy bit of serious sidetracking from what I started with – the Lahad Datu incident. Nonetheless, what happened in that corner of our country a while back now, was significantly telling to exemplify the point I'm making. How we had performed in handling that relatively tiny blip of a threat to our homeland should rightly be viewed as a valid measure of our capability, ability, and effectiveness to handle anything else. After all, surely the

physical defense of this nation must rank pretty high up on that totem-pole of what we must be able to fully and effectively handle and fully take care of.

In the emerging and highly competitive, and often hostile globalized environment, are we anywhere near-ready and prepared to effectively compete on the global stage and chart our own course in making our way forward as a truly successful and independent nation that we had once confidently aspired to be? Can we even be rightly assured that this is still within our reach and means? Are we as a nation still on track to achieve what we thought we rightly deserve, and had felt rightly assured was within reach at one stage not too long ago? ARE WE?

Going back and taking the Lahad Datu episode specifically again; are we now prepared and ready as

we ought to be and should be? Would we be able to do everything right this time if another group of crazy would-be invaders should try the same thing again? I really don't know enough to say one way or another.

However, even if those in authority were to assure us that we are now totally ready and prepared for such an event, anywhere, anytime; let us just make sure we keep improving on it. After all, we should now be at least 49 years more advanced and efficient, ready and prepared to ensure the security and safety of this nation compared to the time when I bade my farewell to this noble profession. And yet somehow, I cannot help feeling that the team I once led that was responsible for defending this country nearly half a century ago would have made, in very short order, a complete and quick

job of this Lahad Datu tiny blip of an irritation to our security – and with a lot less to pay.

If our soldiers should have to sacrifice for the country, from the smallest sacrifice to the ultimate, let it never be, even if only in part, because of some unneeded and meaningless petty squabbling in high places; or that for whatever reason, we are no longer giving off our absolute best at the aggregate level in what we do as a result of growing complacency and corrupt values.

For a start, what we can do for these defenders of our country is to make sure **THEIR TASKS ARE NOT MADE ANY MORE COMPLICATED, DIFFICULT, OR ONEROUS, AND ANY MORE RISKY THAN THEY NEED TO BE.** And this should be something to ensure in every

aspect of our every undertaking.

Over and above the lessons of this Lahad Datu “less-than-perfect response”, and possibly as a consequence of this national complacency leading to the declining values that I had alluded to earlier, there are very likely numerous other similar aspects of our ready willingness in settling for so much “less than our best possible” as a people and as a whole nation, right across the board.

Whether because of this seemingly threat-free progress and the prolonged peace, or because of some other reasons; yet as I had quoted earlier, which might be worth repeating all over, “...When soldiers think it is more fulfilling and rewarding to play politicians and businessmen; when politicians and senior civil servants think it

is such fun to play at being Generals in glamorous uniforms without the battlefield risks; when almost anyone in position of authority thinks it is far more lucratively rewarding playing the role of middlemen and fixers; when leaders often go contrary to their sworn oaths of office; when power and authority, name and recognition, positions and material rewards become the end-all to aim for, often uncaringly by whatever means – and when perhaps it is even fashionable and worth their while to squabble over who should manage, who should be in control, and who should have what authority over whom and what, is it not time to take a real close look at ourselves – and at what we have perhaps now become?

**SHOULD WE NOT
SERIOUSLY
ACCEPT THE
LIKELY TRUTH**

**AND THE REALITY
THAT A NEW
UNCERTAIN AND
LIKELY RUINOUS
VALUE SYSTEM
HAS BEGUN TO
SEEP INTO OUR
WHOLE SOCIETY?**

With this clearly increasing self-interest mode that more and more of us seem to have slowly drifted into; I wonder if our sense of patriotism and our total inner strength as a people and as a nation had in any way been affected. This is clearly a worrying trend that might not be as easily reversed. Would this weaken our ability to effectively come together as one in the face of whatever obvious and more visible threat that might just suddenly blight the country? Could some of the more extreme segments of our society or the more mercenary among us turn totally indifferent or outright treacherous even? So

much and too many wrongdoings have happened to our country of late, and growing – clearly the writings on the wall have not been reassuring.

I sincerely hope some truly far-reaching good can come out of this Lahad Datu episode. Many have said, it is so much easier to “learn from mistakes” than from success. However much of a truism this might be, it would be far better to achieve the same success without mistakes; at least certainly not through our own uncaring neglect and arrogant complacency and corrupt mind-set.

Genuinely unavoidable mistakes there will always be in any undertaking within any function and in whatever we do, but the higher the stakes the more thorough the preparations should be, especially when

the wellbeing of our nation and its citizens are at stake. That is why soldiers spend more time in training than anything else – to make sure that whatever they are supposed to do would be executed to perfection; and whatever the final outcome might be it would have been the best that soldier, that section, that platoon, that Company, that Battalion, or whatever Battle Group it might be, could possibly deliver.

It sounds like a winning philosophy for any organization at whatever level, and it might just get us out of that complacency trap that I had alluded to earlier and which we seem to be heading for. It might even help us battle our way back onto the right track, not just for the physical defense of our homeland but also towards making us become more globally competitive and truly at our best

as a people and as a nation, heading to its rightful place at the global level once again.

THIS WOULD BE A LONG JOURNEY, BUT EVEN IF MOST OF US MIGHT NOT GET TO SEE ITS FULL RECOVERY, DOING EVERYTHING WE POSSIBLY CAN IN BUILDING THE RIGHT FOUNDATION IS AN OBLIGATION WE ALL OWE OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF BANGSA MALAYSIA.

As a first step, we need to be rid of the many creeping new norms and their many advocates, and all those who had in any way been responsible or associated with them as well

ALLOWING THE REBUILDING ANEW OF THE NEEDED VALUES, AND THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION ...Insya-Allah.