



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY

SPEECH BY

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FOR

EMPOWERING EDUCATION SUMMIT 2025

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**JEN PENANG GEORGETOWN BY SHANGRI-LA,
MALAYSIA**

Salam Perpaduan and Salam Malaysia MADANI.

SALUTATIONS

***Provided separately*

WELCOMING REMARKS

1. It is a great honour for me to address this distinguished gathering at the Empowering Education Summit 2025. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the **KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, Malaysian Association of Private Colleges and Universities (MAPCU), National Association of Private Educational Institutions (NAPEI), and the ASEAN Business Club** for organizing this important forum.
2. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the organizers for creating this vital platform to discuss one of the most important pillars of our nation's progress which is “**Fostering National Unity Through Education**”.
3. Today, I speak to you not just as the Minister of National Unity, but as a fellow Malaysian who deeply believes in the rich strength of our diversity. Malaysia is home to a tapestry of cultures, religions, and languages, a vibrant mosaic that is

both our heritage and our future. But for this diversity to remain a source of strength, it must be nurtured by **understanding, respect and acceptance**. And **where does this nurturing begin? It begins with education.**

4. Education is the most powerful tool we must shape the future of our society. It is in our classrooms that the seeds of unity are first planted where young minds begin to learn not only about the world around them, but also about one another.
5. When children sit side by side in the same classroom, sharing knowledge, laughter, and dreams, they also begin to share understanding. **They learn to look beyond skin colour, religion, or language. They learn to see the human being in each other. This is where unity begins.**
6. To foster this kind of unity, we must first look at the **curriculum**, what we teach, how we teach, and what values we embed in our teaching.
7. Our national curriculum must do more than deliver academic knowledge. It must reflect the **shared history, struggles, and successes** of all Malaysians. **It must celebrate our rich cultural heritage while reinforcing a strong sense of national identity.**

8. **We must teach our children to value diversity, not fear it. To embrace differences, not reject them. To listen, to empathize, and to engage in meaningful dialogue.** Let us create a curriculum that doesn't just prepare students for exams but prepares them to become **citizens of unity**, builders of peace, and ambassadors of tolerance.

Ladies and gentlemen,

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY'S EFFORT

9. **In line with our vision to build a harmonious, inclusive, and united Malaysia, the Ministry of National Unity has implemented several key initiatives aimed at nurturing the values of unity from the earliest stages of life and continuing through to higher education and national engagement.**

10. These efforts are not only designed to promote understanding and appreciation of our diverse cultures but also to instil the principles of mutual respect, civic responsibility, and national pride in every Malaysian. Allow me to highlight key initiatives that form the foundation of our unity agenda.

11. Firstly, **1,781 Tabika Perpaduan** (*Unity Preschools*) has been introduced Rukun Negara module, inculcation of unity and

good values and a module for children to be more independent. The Ministry of National Unity proposes that the **Rukun Negara Education Module** be expanded to all kindergartens across the country, including preschools under the Ministry of Education (KPM), Tabika KEMAS, and private preschools.

12. Secondly, we are committed to expanding the numbers of **Rukun Negara Clubs and Rukun Negara Secretariats in schools and higher education institutions across the country**. This initiative aims to strengthen our efforts in nurturing the spirit of unity among the younger generation. These clubs and secretariats will serve as champions of unity within their institutions, playing a crucial role in turning the ideals of the Rukun Negara into a lived reality for every Malaysian.

13. Besides, few impactful programs been and will be conducted through Department of National Unity and Integration such as ***Program Gerak Integrasi Perpaduan, Secretariat Rukun Negara Convention, Citra Negaraku, Jalinan Integrasi Mahasiswa, and Unity Public Speaking.***

Ladies and gentlemen,

NATIONAL EDUCATION UNITY INDEX

14. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a valuable suggestion brought to my attention by the organising committee, the development of a **National Education Unity Index**.
15. In fact, I am pleased to share that the **Ministry of Education has already taken important steps in this direction** through the implementation of the **School Unity Index (*Indeks Perpaduan Sekolah*)**.
16. In 2021, the index recorded a score of **6.27**. This figure rose to **7.10 in 2022**, and further improved to **7.51 in 2023**. This steady increase reflects the growing impact of our collective efforts to promote unity among both students and educators in our schools. This study, which is a key initiative in strengthening national unity at the grassroots level, was made possible through the collaboration of **Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)**.

17. The methodology employed is robust, using **quantitative data** collected online from both students and teachers via the **DELIMa platform**, ensuring wide participation and accurate representation. This initiative marks a significant step in grounding our unity-building efforts in **evidence-based insights**, allowing us to better understand where we are and what more needs to be done.
18. I would also like to highlight one of the key suggestions from the **2022 School Unity Index Report** which advocates for the **empowerment of both curricular and co-curricular activities across ethnic groups**, with a particular focus on the states of **Terengganu, Kelantan, Pahang, and Kedah**.
19. This suggestion is based on the recognition that fostering unity requires more than just classroom teaching. It is essential that we create opportunities for students from different backgrounds to come together, collaborate, and understand one another outside the academic setting. By enhancing these cross-ethnic activities, we can create stronger bonds between students from diverse communities and regions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

CONCLUSION

20. In a world increasingly divided by race, religion, and politics, Malaysia has the opportunity and the responsibility to show that unity is possible. That peace is possible. That **diversity can be our strength**, not our weakness.

21. Let us invest in an education system that nurtures thinkers, dreamers, and peacemakers. Let us raise a generation that no longer asks, “What divides us?” but instead, “What binds us together as Malaysians?” **Education is our bridge. Unity is our goal. And the future is ours to shape together.**

Thank You.