



Name: Farhana Natasya Mohd Johari

Student ID: 1201101126

Faculty/Programme: FAC, Bachelor of Strategic Communication

Malaysia Prihatin : Our Responsibility as Malaysia Citizens

'Negaraku, tanah tumpahnya darahku.' My country, the land where my blood spilled is a famous saying that comes from our national anthem. A simple, direct line yet it holds so much power and meaning which also indicates that we, as Malaysian citizens, should put our all for our beloved country to the definition where we would risk our precious lives for the safety of Malaysia as well as our people. From this line itself, it reminds us of our responsibility as Malaysian citizens and that the country's position including success do not just depend on the government or the people that rule the country, but it depends on the citizens too. Bon (2011) stated that our realisation of our important roles in nation-building is the key to change. As a multiracial country, we are diverse in so many ways including ethnicities, languages, cultures and religion but despite these differences, we are still one as Malaysians. This should constantly be on everyone's minds as our responsibilities as Malaysian citizens are to contribute to society, develop an appreciation and obey the law.

What does it mean to contribute to society? Contributing to society means you are cooperating or doing something that benefits your community or society. Contributing does not entirely mean you have to take an act. You do not necessarily have to act or show publicly of what you do as a meaning of contribution. Contributing could also be done in the most minimalist and private way such as donating to those in need. Donations also come in many different forms depending on what the society needs. For example, the homeless would need donations of food, money or clothing while the sick need donations in the form of medicines or even blood. It is advisable for us to donate blood four times a year or to be exact, every three months and this is applicable to healthy citizens as young as 18 years old. By donating blood, countless innocent

lives would be saved and you will be a part of their journey. Another method to contribute to our community is by supporting local businesses which means businesses that are based in Malaysia and are handled by a Malaysian whereby their business is a source of income for themselves. Supporting local businesses does not just ensure their income source is certain, but also it helps our economy to be stable as well as creating more job opportunities for other people in the community. Not to mention volunteering is also a form of contribution. Taking the current Covid-19 situation and pandemic into consideration, volunteering at the vaccine centres would ease the work of so many parties, especially frontline workers. Not only do you get paid, but you also get to help your own people. That being said, contributing to society plays a huge role in a citizen's responsibility because it improves our daily lives and by doing so, we are doing good deeds.

Gratitude is a part of our emotions which means being grateful or appreciative towards something. As Malaysians, there are numerous ways to show gratitude towards our country and that is by developing appreciation. How do we show appreciation for Malaysia? It is as simple as ABC. First and foremost, become an active citizen. By actively participating in any country related activities such as political process, Malaysians are showing that they care for this country and are not self centered. A selfish citizen is when one does not pay attention to anything that is going on in the country and no community deserves a citizen like so. If children are able to gain knowledge regarding this, then any adults could do the same unless they belong to the disabled community. Country related activities do not only mean political process but also celebrations which we celebrate every 31st August and that is the Independence Day. When we celebrate this exact day when Malaysia marks the independence of the Federation of Malaya 64 years ago, we are showing appreciation towards our country and are being patriotic. On this wonderful day, we would proudly wave our flag and sing our hearts out to the National Anthem. Secondly, Malaysians could also develop appreciation by studying the history of Malaysia which has been applied to all bumiputera and even non-bumiputera that studies high school in Malaysia where History is a mandatory subject. However, some students would find their way skipping History classes as it was perceived as boring. This mindset should be changed in order to create well knowledgeable, unselfish and caring citizens.

Wherever we go, there will always be rules. Be it at school or even our own home, rules exist everywhere and it is the same to our country. Without rules, there will be chaos and undisciplined citizens which could potentially be a big reason for the downfall of a country. As an example, even though the Prime Minister of Malaysia has said multiple times that we should stay home in the midst of the pandemic, there are still stubborn citizens who wish to go out and put other lives in danger, resulting in more and more Covid cases. The presence of laws in Malaysia is to ensure that we could avoid any possible negative consequences that could happen which is why we are taught to obey the laws. Although there are rare situations where breaking the rule seems like a better option, always think before you act. Breaking a minor rule in school might only just give you a slight punishment, but breaking the country's laws, would affect so many other people. Leaving a rapist wandering around us would increase more rape victims and it is similar to people who do not obey laws. Laws are democratically decided and breaking the law means violating an individual's rights. As a Malaysian citizen, it is the bare minimum that we obey the law and discipline ourselves. Obeying the law is equal to a harmonious country.

Although it was proven and is a fact that a person holds multiple responsibilities as a citizen, some argue that said all these responsibilities should be endured by the government or the rulers of the country. The citizens' minds have been indoctrinated with the idea that their current lives are already hard enough and these responsibilities are burdensome. However, just because some think so, does not mean that every citizen should think the same. Annabelle (2016) in her article on responsible citizens of the society, writes that the importance of civic responsibility is paramount to the success of democracy and philanthropy. This further proves that by engaging in this responsibility, citizens ensure and uphold certain democratic values. With that, all Malaysian citizens should be aware of their responsibilities and not look down on it as some fail to see the importance of a citizen's responsibility.

It is clear as day that we play a huge role in making Malaysia what it is today. As responsible citizens of Malaysia, our roles and responsibilities would affect the well being of this country. The unique differences between our races and our diversity should be a motivating factor for us to work together and prove to others that we are

great citizens. As the saying goes “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”