

Monday 17 July 23

Message from Abp Simon Poh, President, Catholic Bishops of Malaysia

We realise that the Church in Malaysia is living in a time of great challenges. The last three years of pandemic have brought much suffering and hardship to the poor families. The changing climate with longer dry period and stronger storms are affecting the crops. In addition, the uncertain future and political situation have experienced a rise in fundamentalism where politics of race and religion are threatening to destabilise the government and economy.

My desire is that the Catholic Church in Malaysia - in collaboration with Christians and people of goodwill from all faiths - will contribute towards nation building, May we build a Malaysia where the rights and liberty of every citizens - irrespective of race, culture, faith and beliefs - are upheld and respected, as enshrined in the Rukun Negara, with the following ambitions :

- Achieving and fostering better unity amongst the society;
- Preserving a democratic way of life;
- Creating a just society where the prosperity of the country can be enjoyed together in a fair and equitable manner;
- Ensuring a liberal approach towards the rich and varied cultural traditions;
- Building a progressive society that will make use of science and modern technology.

With the Catholic Bishops of Sabah, Sarawak and Semenanjung, our Catholic Church is committed to work for peace and harmony and to respond to this current climate crisis today. We will exercise our spiritual and moral leadership to contribute to the common good of all peoples and our *tanah air* Malaysia.

Source on Rukun Negara from Malaysian Information Portal:

<https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/content/30110>