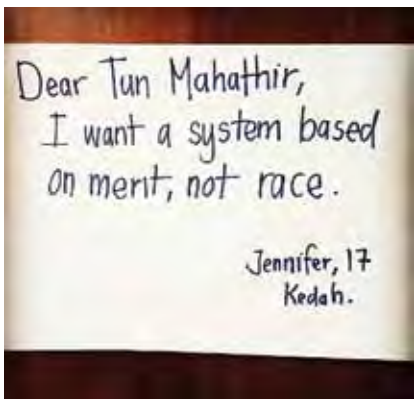
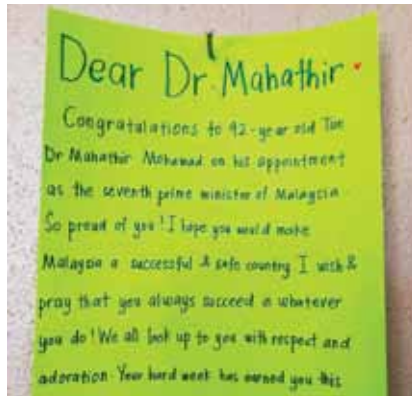


# #letterto myPM

Children and Youth Voice Their Hopes to the Seventh Prime Minister of Malaysia

unicef   
for every child



unicef  | for every child

This publication highlights UNICEF's commitment to partnering with children and young people. It is based on their voices, thoughts and actions.

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Malaysia, July 2018

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# **#lettertoMyPM**

**Children and Youth Voice Their Hopes to  
the Seventh Prime Minister of Malaysia**





"Bless  
Malaysia."  
Adiel, 7, Sabah

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Dear Dr. Mahathir,

I am glad you  
became Prime Minister.

I hope you are a  
good leader. I also  
hope you would make  
Malaysia a successful  
& safe country.

Regards.



# INTRODUCTION

## It starts with one voice

May 2018. Seven-year-old Avinash takes pen to paper and writes a letter to his new Prime Minister expressing his hope that Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will “*make Malaysia a safe and peaceful country.*”

This was just days after Malaysia held its 14<sup>th</sup> General Election, which saw Tun Dr Mahathir taking oath as the country’s seventh Prime Minister. Tun made history as the first Malaysian to serve a second term as PM—after having previously served the country for 22 years as its fourth PM from 1981-2003.

Tok Det, as Tun refers to himself when with children, returned to duty at the age of 92, proving that being a productive and contributing member of society does not come with an age limit.

In the days after Tun took over, many opinions and viewpoints were articulated by business leaders, NGOs, watchdog organisations, prominent figures and concerned citizens from around the country. In this ensuing noise, the small but powerful

voice belonging to Avinash came to the attention of UNICEF Malaysia.

Avinash’s simple note is a reminder that in our preoccupation with what the adults are saying, we forget to listen to the young. What are the hopes and dreams of the children and youth in Malaysia? What are they concerned about? While those aged 21 and above had the opportunity to voice their opinions through the ballot box, those who were younger had been left ‘voiceless’.

This was the start of the **#lettertomyPM** Instagram initiative.

**#lettertomyPM** is a campaign by UNICEF Malaysia to give children and youth in Malaysia an opportunity to speak and be heard, not just by the new PM, but also by the other new leaders of the country. Launched on 12 May 2018, children and youth up to the age of 24 were invited to send in their messages through Instagram, in the hopes that this would empower them as agents of change.

Children in Malaysia are overly stressed due to school, learn that the only milestone of adulthood is to be able to watch 18+ movies legally, associate being rude as entertaining, and are discriminated and ridiculed when saying real, meaningful things, just because of not being old enough.


Make Malaysians children happy, creative,  
polite and honoured

MAKE MALAYSIAN CHILDREN GREAT  
AGAIN! ^ ^  
v

*Kelly*

Kelly, 20, Selangor





“Make Malaysian children happy,  
creative, polite and honoured.

MAKE MALAYSIAN  
CHILDREN GREAT AGAIN!”

Kelly, 20, Selangor

At the time of printing, more than 350 letters had been received from across the country, including Sabah and Sarawak.

Many touched on the issue of education, indicating clear ideas of what was wanted from the school system. These ranged from simple requests for *“better schools”* and a revamped system that acknowledged talent beyond academic achievements, to an emphatic appeal to *“make education accessible to children of all walks of life because every child truly deserves it.”* They also voiced their thoughts and concerns on sustainable and liveable communities, the environment, peace and governance, among other issues.

Although these letters are dedicated to the PM, they bring to light the children’s expressions of faith, hope and belief not just for a better country but also for a better future. The letters embody acts of courage, activism and agency and confirm that children are their own best advocates.

In this booklet, UNICEF Malaysia has compiled some of the letters—excerpts as well as some in full—to be presented to today’s leaders in government. We hope that these words from young people will help guide leaders as the country enacts its new policies and forges a path into the future.

Their letters serve to teach, guide and remind us that what we do now has a hand in their future. If nothing else they tell us we must do better for every child.

Access all letters on Instagram  
[#lettertomyPM.](#)

- Some letters have been edited for clarity.
- Some names have been changed to protect the identity of the child.

Dear Tun Mahathir,

I hope you always in Allah bless! 🍀

Do the greatest job because we all children and Malaysians love you so much! and we know you can!

Congratulations again!

My hope,

Tun, kami kanak-kanak banyak suara tetapi kami tak dapat nak suarakan kerana tidak tahu saluran yang betul.

Ya, ~~the~~ most child understand child.

So ~~let~~ ~~give~~ bagi kami peluang dan ruang untuk berkongsi. Saya syorkan banyakkkan program ni sebab ia sangat bagus dan perlu untuk melahirkan kanak-kanak yang mampu berfikiran matang serta bertindak matang.

lastly, hear our voices 🍀

From, Nur Zarith Sufia bt Mohamad Fadzli

# THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE



Children are not only our future, they are our present. Children rely on adults to ensure the quality of their lived realities today. They need to be protected and given safe places to grow up and become well-adjusted adults. It is by listening to children that we can best understand what the young generation feels, wants and needs. Allowing a child to voice his or her concerns gives us a critical perspective, as children themselves know best what their challenges are.

“Tun, kami kanak-kanak banyak suara tetapi kami tak dapat nak suarakan kerana tidak tahu saluran yang betul...(children) understand (children). So bagi kami peluang dan ruang untuk berkongsi...ia sangat bagus dan perlu untuk melahirkan kanak-kanak yang mampu berfikiran matang serta bertindak matang. Hear our voices.”

Nur Zarith Sufia, 18, Selangor

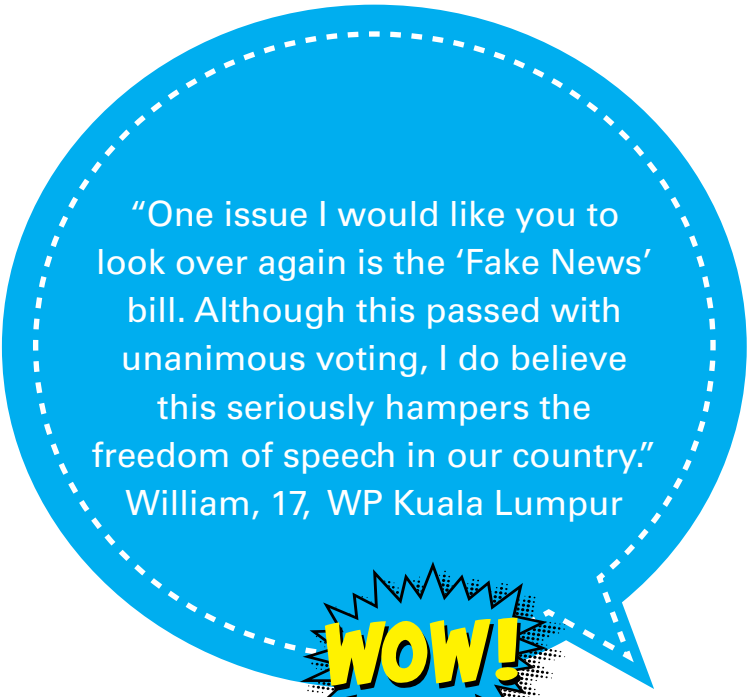


It is not only the child who benefits from participation. Communities and societies also stand to gain from including children and youth in their discourse. When children participate, they develop a sense of judgement and independence. When they are empowered, they learn to use this power responsibly and gain the ability to think maturely and objectively.

Socially responsible and cooperative children and youth form a strong base for sustainable communities. Children learn to be active citizens and this helps to hold organisations, corporations and the Government accountable.

In one of the letters, for example, the Government is asked to review the Anti-Fake News Act. The bill, passed in April 2018, has given rise to concerns that the people's, including children's and youth's, right to voice opinions in a responsible manner may be severely restricted.

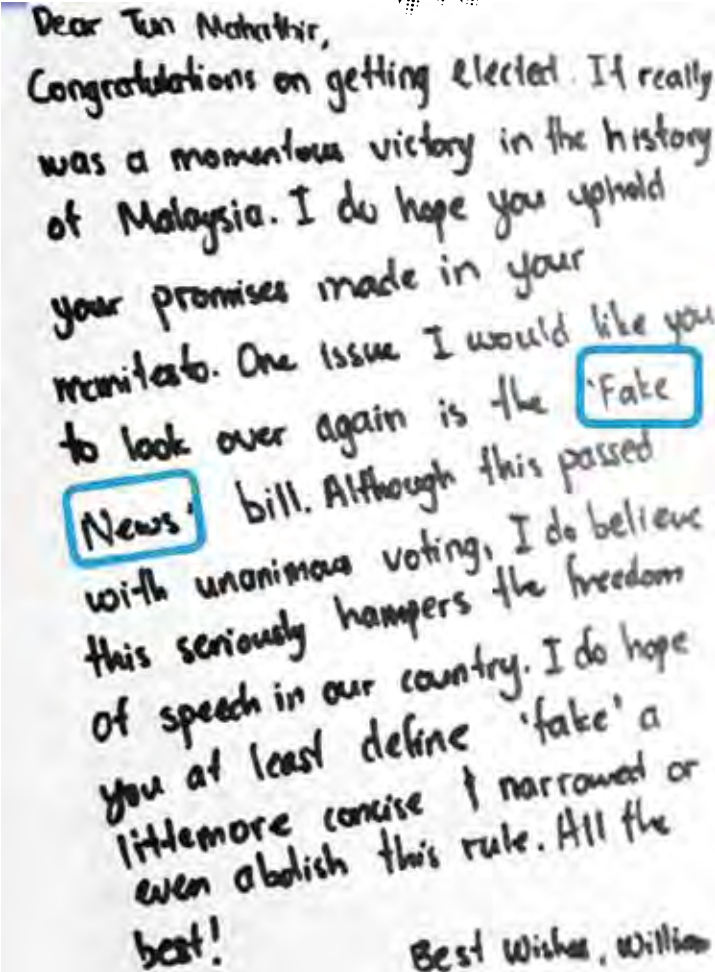
“Hope Malaysia becomes a better place to have freedom of speech.”  
Rashmika, 17, Perak



“One issue I would like you to look over again is the ‘Fake News’ bill. Although this passed with unanimous voting, I do believe this seriously hampers the freedom of speech in our country.”  
William, 17, WP Kuala Lumpur



**WOW!**



Dear Tun Mahathir,  
Congratulations on getting elected. It really was a momentous victory in the history of Malaysia. I do hope you uphold your promises made in your manifesto. One issue I would like you to look over again is the 'Fake News' bill. Although this passed with unanimous voting, I do believe this seriously hampers the freedom of speech in our country. I do hope you at least define 'fake' a little more concise & narrowed or even abolish this rule. All the best!

Best wishes, William

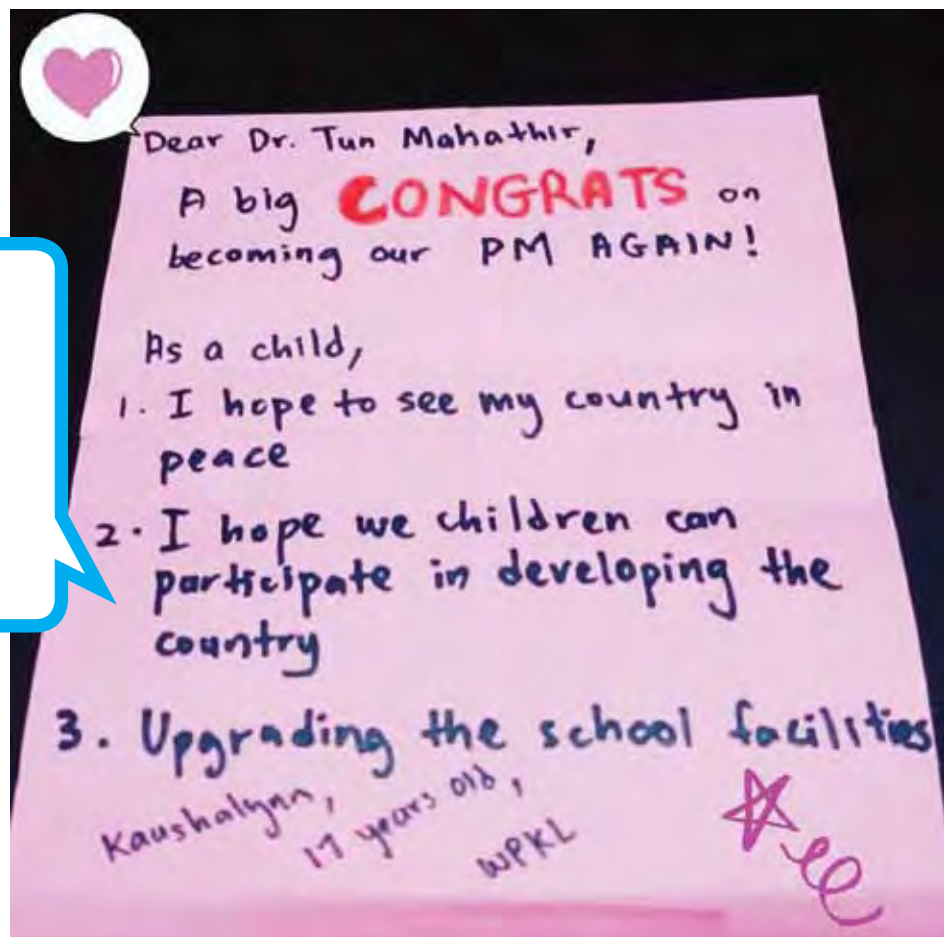
It is by empowering children and youth with a sense of ownership over the development and sustainability of the country that we give them the chance to take responsibility for the future development of the nation. And it is clear that the children and youth of Malaysia are ready to contribute to the national narrative and are waiting for the opportunity to do so.

“Dear Tun Dr Mahathir, I hope that Tun can strengthen the Majlis Perwakilan Kanak-Kanak (Children’s Representative Council) and introduce it to all Malaysians.”  
Iman, 18, Perak

“I would like for there to be more involvement from the youth in formulating policies for children.”  
Nur Suhaila, 21, WP Kuala Lumpur

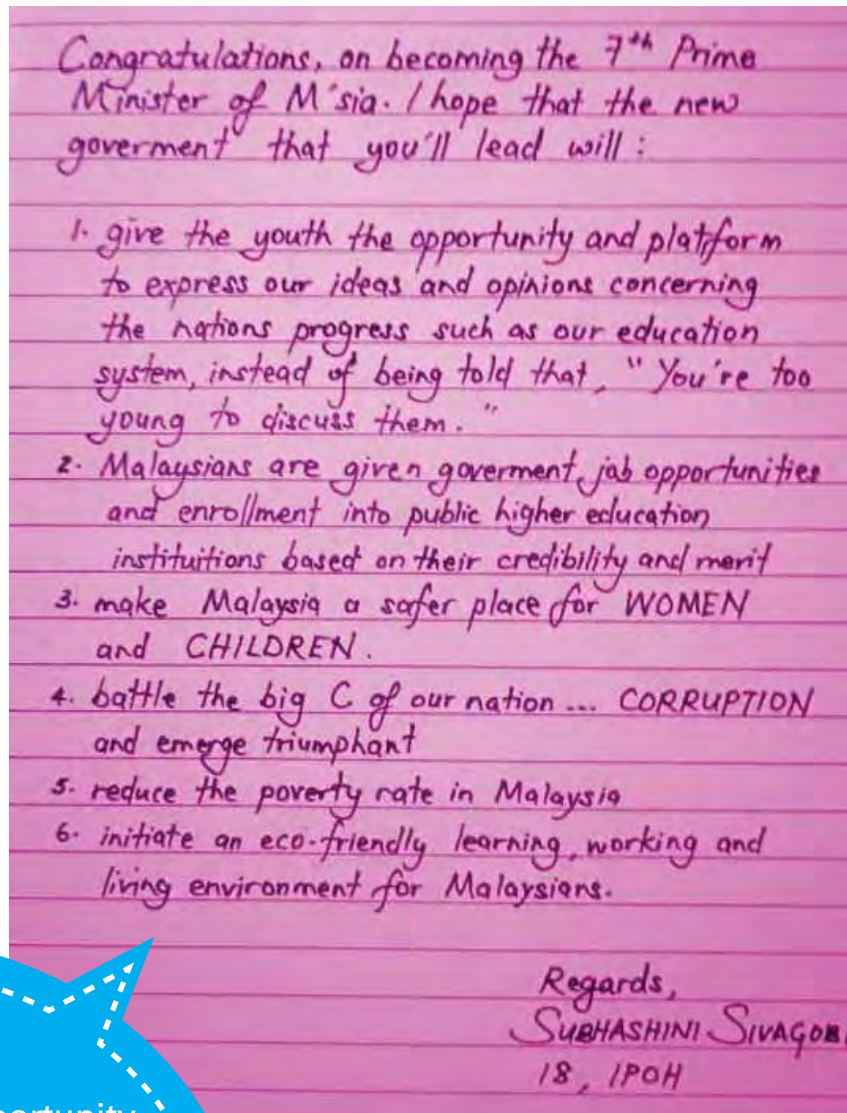
“Please give youths a platform to express themselves as youths are the future of society. May God bless you!”  
Benedict, 15, Johor

“I hope we children can participate in developing the country.”  
Kaushalynn, 17,  
WP Kuala Lumpur



Providing space for children and youth to share their concerns and ideas upholds Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which states that we must give children the opportunity to express their views in all matters affecting them and give their opinions "due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child". We cannot dismiss their voices just because they are young.

"Children are discriminated (against) and ridiculed when saying real, meaningful things just because of not being old enough."  
Kelly, 20, Selangor



"Give the youth the opportunity and platform to express our ideas and opinions concerning (aspects of) the nation's progress such as our education system, instead of being told that, 'You're too young to discuss them'."  
Subhashini, 18, Perak



“Dear Tun Dr Mahathir, as a child, I request that you acknowledge the paramount importance of child participation in our nation. Please do ensure that there is space and equal opportunities for all of us!”  
Cathryn, 17, Selangor



Tun Dr Mahathir signed the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in 1991 when he served the country as the fourth Prime Minister. The Declaration stresses a united commitment to give every child a better future and states among others that:

- The children of the world are innocent, vulnerable and dependent. They are also curious, active and full of hope. Their time should be one of joy and peace, of playing, learning and growing. Their future should be shaped in harmony and co-operation. Their lives should mature, as they broaden their perspectives and gain new experiences.
- All children must be given the chance to find their identity and realise their worth in a safe and supportive environment, through families and other caregivers committed to their welfare.
- They must be prepared for responsible life in a free society. They should, from their early years, be encouraged to participate in the cultural life of their societies.
- The well-being of children requires political action at the highest level. We are determined to take that action.
- We do this not only for the present generation, but for all generations to come. There can be no task nobler than giving every child a better future.

Dear Tun M,

I Love You

I want our new government

to be kind, trust worthy, loving  
and fair.

by Radheka Sai 7 years

petaling jaya!



# LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



Society needs effective governance and purposeful and visionary leadership to progress and develop to its full potential. Children and youth have a right to a government that is accountable and legitimate, as well as to live in a land where the rule of law is respected and upheld.

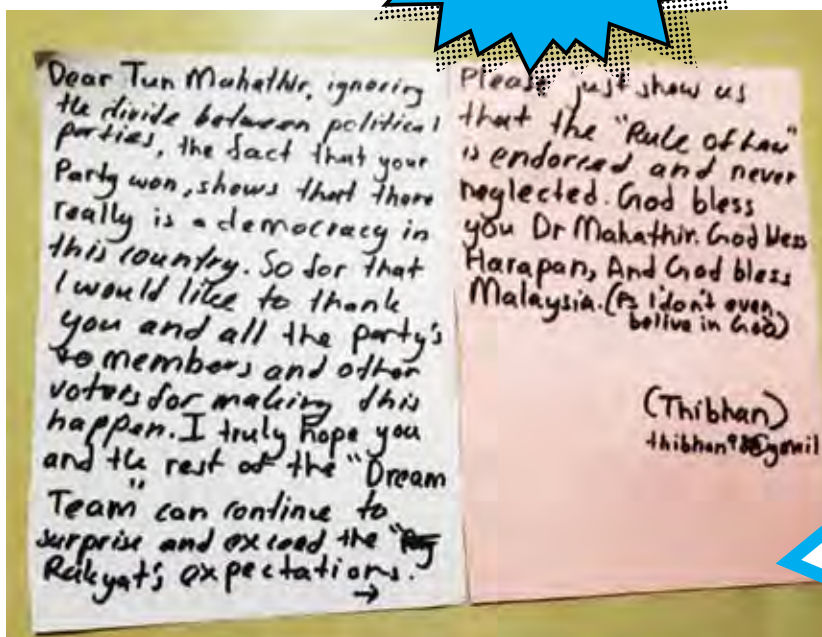
*"I want our new Government to be kind, trustworthy, loving and fair."  
Radheka, 7, Selangor*



Through their letters, young Malaysians have made it clear that they want a leadership that is *“humble, hardworking, efficient and clean”* while also wanting the assurance *“that the rule of law is endorsed and never neglected.”*

*“Dear Dr Mahathir, please make sure that all Ministers, Menteri Besars and civil servants of PH will be humble, hardworking, efficient and clean.”*  
Benedict, 15, Johor

*“Dear Tun Mahathir, ‘No one should have extra influence on an organisation. We should always regard ourselves as equals in the organisation and we should be concerned about each other’s problems.’ This is what you have said to us. Hope you will be concerned about Malaysia’s problems. We will stand together and fight for our rights.”*  
Siindhu, 15, Johor



*“Dear Tun, the fact that your party won, shows that there really is a democracy in this country... I truly hope you and the rest of the ‘Dream Team’ can continue to surprise and exceed the Rakyat’s expectations. Please just show us that the ‘Rule of Law’ is endorsed and never neglected.”*  
Thibhan, 20,  
WP Kuala Lumpur

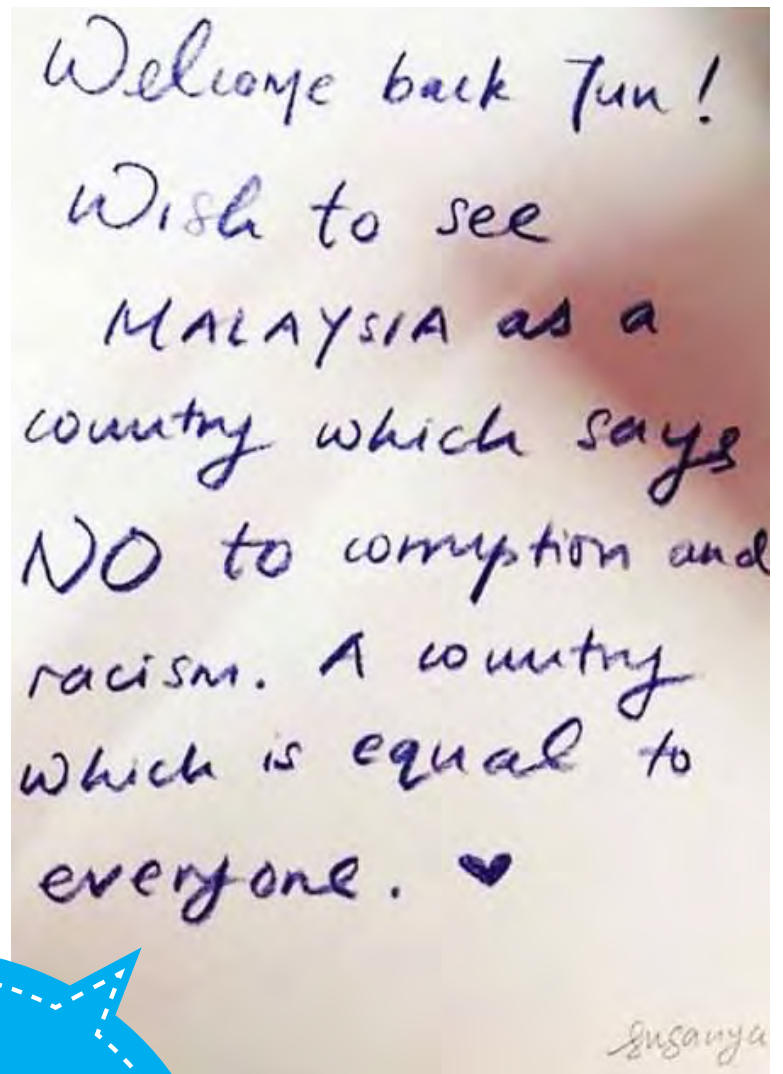
Echoing the push under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure that countries “substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms”, the voices of the young speak up against corruption and financial leakages.

“I hope the new government will battle the big ‘C’ of our nation...CORRUPTION...and emerge triumphant.”

Subhashini, 18, Perak

“...take a step to stop corruption which kills our country’s progression.”

Jayasri, 17, Perak



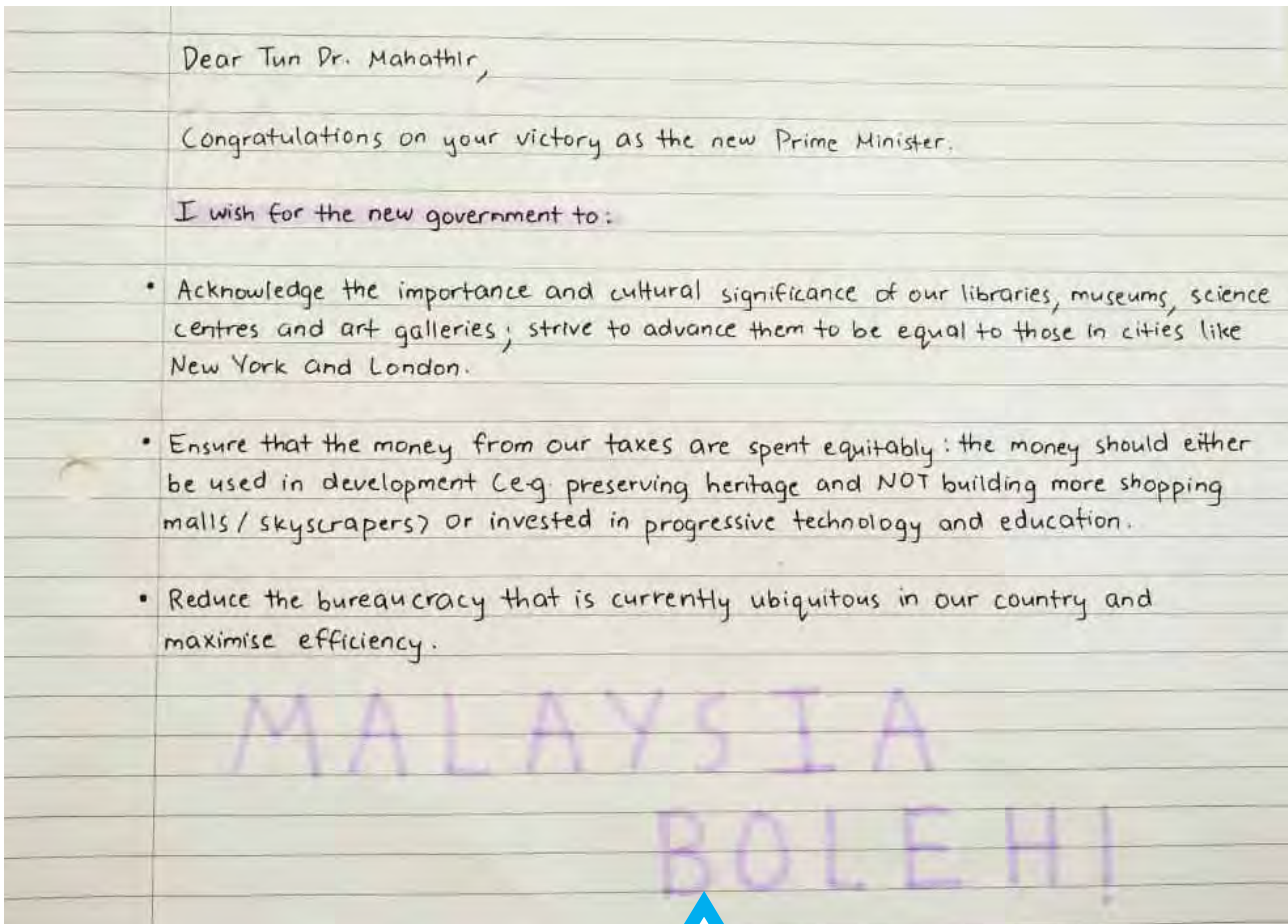
Welcome back Tun!  
Wish to see  
MALAYSIA as a  
country which says  
NO to corruption and  
racism. A country  
which is equal to  
everyone. ♥

Suganya

“Wish to see Malaysia as a country which says NO to corruption and racism.”

Suganya, 24, Selangor

COOL!



The children and youth place their hopes in the strength of their new PM and here, they voice out their dreams for a Malaysia that is strong economically, politically and socially and that their new PM will be a PM for all.

“(Saya harap Tun) dapat bekerjasama dengan semua orang, tak kira bangsa, agama mahupun parti politik demi membangunkan negara tercinta ini Malaysia.”

Nabil, 14,  
WP Kuala Lumpur

“Ensure that the money from our taxes are spent equitably: the money should either be used in development (e.g. preserving heritage and NOT building more shopping malls/skyscrapers) or invested in progressive technology and education. Reduce the bureaucracy that is currently ubiquitous in our country and maximise efficiency.”  
Mia, 13, WP Kuala Lumpur



Dear Tun Dr. Mahathir,

Congratulations on winning GE14. I wish you are well. Thank you for lowering the GST rate to 0%, I hope Malaysia becomes a high-income country by the year 2020. I hope you can lower the national debt. I hope you can make our education system better by having the same number of examinations per year in every school in Malaysia. Wishing you good health.

All the best,  
Teh Zhi Yang, 11, Selangor



"I hope Malaysia becomes a high-income country by the year 2020. I hope you can lower the national debt."  
Zhi Yang, 11, Selangor

**EXCELLENT**

"I hope that you can make Malaysia one of the most successful (nations) and a great country in the future!"  
Shameera, 18,  
Selangor


Dear Tun Mahathir,

I am glad that you have been appointed as the 7<sup>th</sup> prime minister of Malaysia. I hope that you can make Malaysia one of the most successful and a great country in the future!

Saya Anak Malaysia



Shameera  
18 - Selangor



Dear Tun Dr Mahathir,  
I want Malaysia to be a  
safe country for  
everyone.

Thank you for coming back  
as our PM.

♥ Sareveeshtram Thayalan

# SAFETY, EQUALITY AND UNITY



Safety, equality and unity—these three aspects form the basis of peaceful and resilient communities that can provide children and youth a stable and nurturing space in which to thrive, grow and develop to their full potential. These essential components ensure that Malaysia will remain, as one youth says, *“prosperous and strong for the years to come.”*

*“I want Malaysia to be a safe country for everyone.”*

Sareveeshtram, 6, WP Kuala Lumpur



The wishes of children and youth are straightforward, from asking to feel safe in their daily routines, to asking for better protection for those who need it.

"I sincerely hope that Malaysia will be prosperous and strong for the years to come. I wish one day, children or teenagers can walk on the streets alone without their parents (worrying) about their safety."

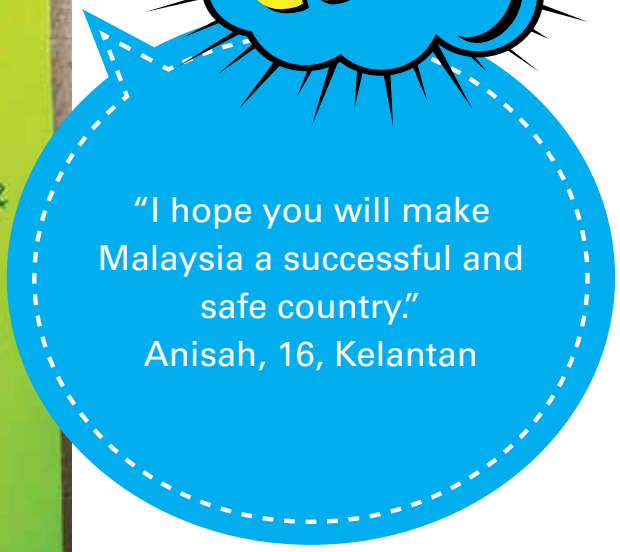
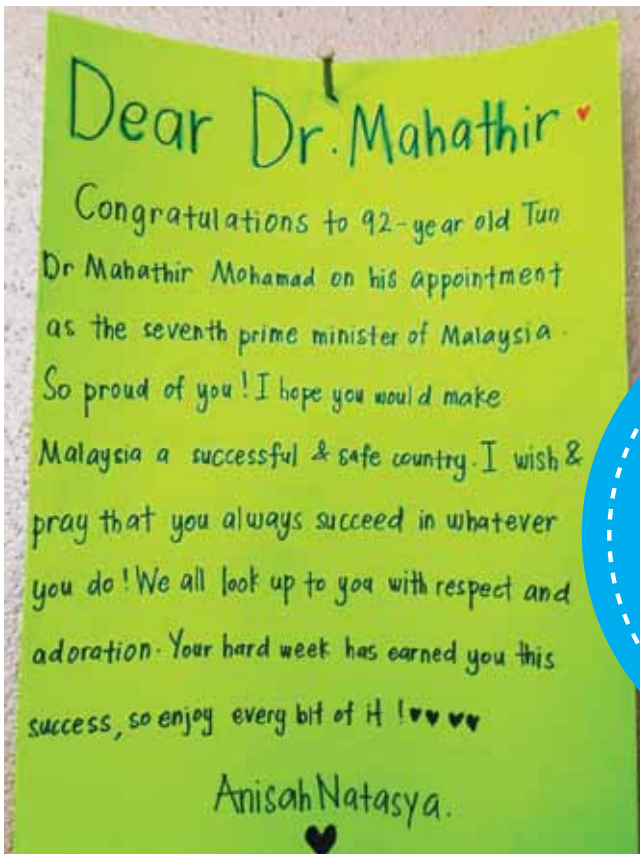
Yen Zen, 15, Selangor

"Crime rates are rising rapidly throughout the nation and we need to put an end to this, I believe that if punishments are made more severe it will instill some fear in the minds of the people and make them think twice before (committing) any wrongdoings."

Lugashinee, 18, Perak

"Make Malaysia a safer place for women and children."

Subhashini, 18, Perak

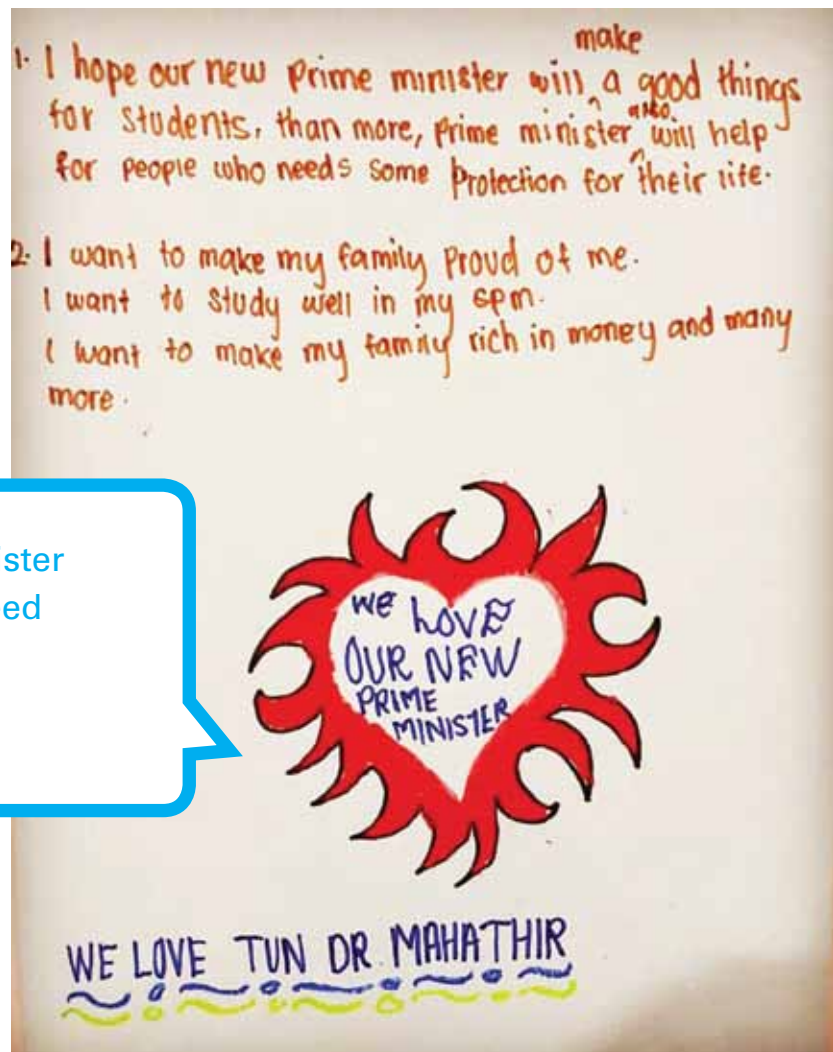




It is this sense of equality for all and seeing themselves as a united front fighting for the safety and protection of all communities that make the voices of the young so important today. They realise that they have an important role to play.

“I will try my hardest to be a responsible citizen. I do believe that without being one, all of those amazing goals to make this country a better place wouldn't happen. The youth need to realise how important their role is to reach those goals. I do believe that every person can make a change. As long as we all are in this together (and) unite for better things, no matter our different perceptions about things...The ultimate goal is always peace.”  
Ana, 20, Sabah

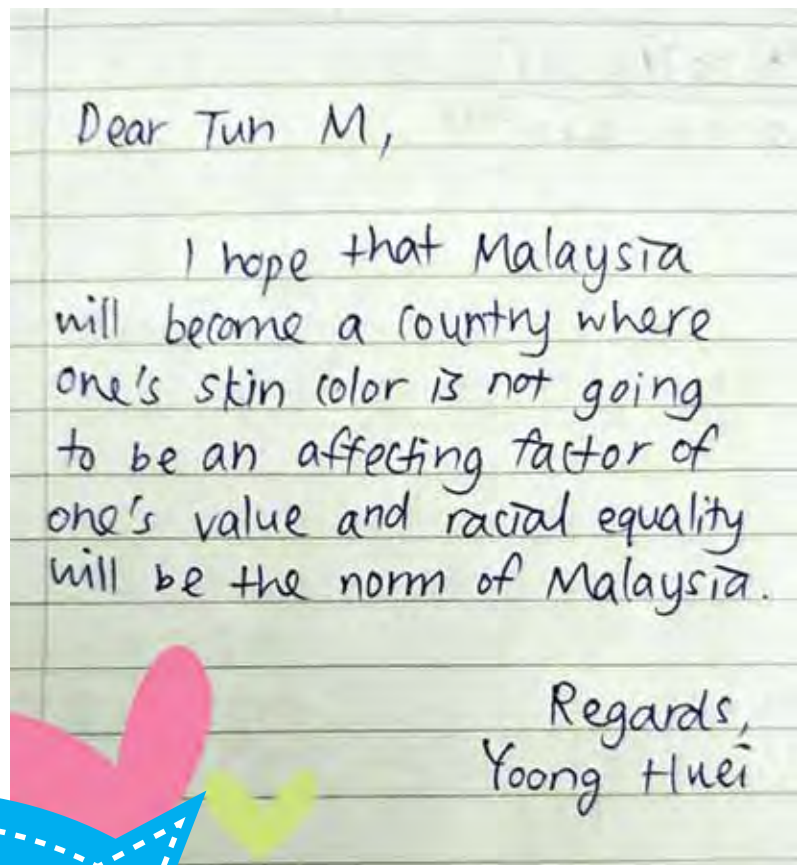
“Encourage all women and children to break the odds, be confident, and stop appearance shaming.”  
Rampria, 19, Johor



“I hope our new Prime Minister will help the people who need protection for their life.”  
Zara, 6, WP Kuala Lumpur  
(from Pakistan)

The children and youth of Malaysia are also lending their voices to the call for equality and unity; and looking for a system based on merit. This is the underlying principle of Sustainable Development Goal 10 which states that “in order for nations to flourish, equality and prosperity must be available to everyone— regardless of gender, race, religious beliefs or economic status.”

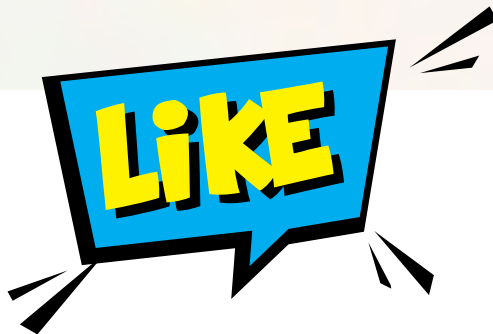
“I hope that Malaysians are given government job opportunities and enrolment into public higher education institutions based on credibility and merit.”  
Subhashini, 18, Perak



“I hope that Malaysia will become a country where one’s skin colour is not going to be an affecting factor of one’s value...”  
Yoong Huei, 19,  
Negeri Sembilan

Dear Tun Mahathir,  
I want a system based  
on merit, not race.

Jennifer, 17  
Kedah.



Children see that equality sits at the heart of national development and equate this to a united Malaysia. They understand the core role equality plays in creating a sustainable country. Rather than identify themselves by ethnicity, children and youth want to claim their identity as Malaysians. They no longer want to fill out forms that ask them to specify race and religion—their voices are loud and clear: *“I am proud to be Malaysian!”*

*“I wish one day parents will not have to write Keturunan or Agama as we are all Malaysians. I am proud to be Malaysian!”*

Yen Zen, 15, Selangor

*“Dear Dr Mahathir, we really need you to help us in a few things. Please emphasise racial unity amongst the people and please make sure Malaysia is internationally competent.”*

Benedict, 15, Johor

"We are Malaysians. Remove race from all Government-related forms."  
Shalini, 17, Selangor

Dear Mr Mahathir,

You have become a proverb in my family created by my father, "Age does not limit you in anything, not even becoming a PM in 92. So proud of you sir. My opinions:

- 1) Malaysia has always been a country filled with abundance of sources. Why should we buy rice from other countries when we can create our own in our amazing homeland. We must improve our agriculture system to feed our future generations. Support our rural area farmers and livestock owners.
- 2) Change the education policy and re-introduce English medium school. Enough of studying Maths and Science in Tamil, Chinese and Malay. Standardise everything to one certain language.
- 3) Find a way to reduce traffic jams in Malaysia. Also improve the quality of public transport. Road quality around Malaysia could also be improved.
- 4) WE ARE MALAYSIANS. Remove the race from all government related forms. There should only be 2 boxes.  
 Malaysian     International

Dear Dr Mahathir,      16/5/18  
Make Malaysia happy and successful.  
Help Malaysia to be good again.  
I want peace in my country. Let Malaysia not become a racist country and let Malaysian stand together.  
May all Malaysian love each other.  
Amesha Vanar (Sabah)



"I want peace in my country. Let Malaysia not become a racist country and let Malaysians stand together. May all Malaysians love each other."  
Amesha, 9, Sabah (learning disability)



Dear Tun Mahathir,

You have been my inspiration since I was a child. Welcome back sir. I wish for a better nation where everyone gets free education. I also wish that you can give ~~the~~ opportunity to the adolescent to voice out our opinion. ~~the~~ Finally, I am hoping that you can help us unite ~~with~~ all the races in Malaysia. We are One!

I ♥ Malaysia

"I am hoping you can help us unite all the races in Malaysia. We are one!"

Nisa, 19,  
WP Kuala Lumpur

Dear Tun Dr. Mahathir ♥  
Sabah merupakan salah sebuah negeri di dalam Malaysia yang juga sedang giat membangun, but too bad not all people in Malaysia notices it ♥ I just hope that Sabah, negeri di bawah bayu, will have the same level in everybody's view, can be accepted and respected and grow together as 1 Malaysia! ♥ I Agreed 100% when Tun said: "I believe Malaysian people are not violent..." ♥ YES, absolutely Yes ♥ say NO to racism ① Thank You So Much Tun ♥

"I just hope that Sabah will have the same level in everybody's view, (and will) be accepted and respected and grow together as 1Malaysia."  
Carina, 17,  
Sabah

Dear Tun Mahathir,

I hope you can change our education system to become better. My friends which are going to private school because their parents thought the government school is not good.

I think the poors also need a better learning enviroment, And goverment school teachers will be trained to teach better, love their students more. Thank you.





# QUALITY EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Quality education for every child—this was the issue most championed by the children and youth who shared their ideas through the **#lettertoMyPM** initiative. It was acknowledged that education is the key to a brighter future, and that it brings opportunity and develops in the young the ability to contribute to a progressive, healthy society.

“I hope you can change our education system to become better. My friends are going to private school because their parents (think) the government school is not good. I think the poor also need a better learning environment.”

Mimico, 15, WP Kuala Lumpur

The young were outspoken when it came to voicing their opinions on the school system they were enrolled in. There were requests to revamp a system that was outdated, with children asking for a less exam-oriented system—a system that supports and nurtures talents instead of one that focuses only on the number of 'A's scored in an exam.

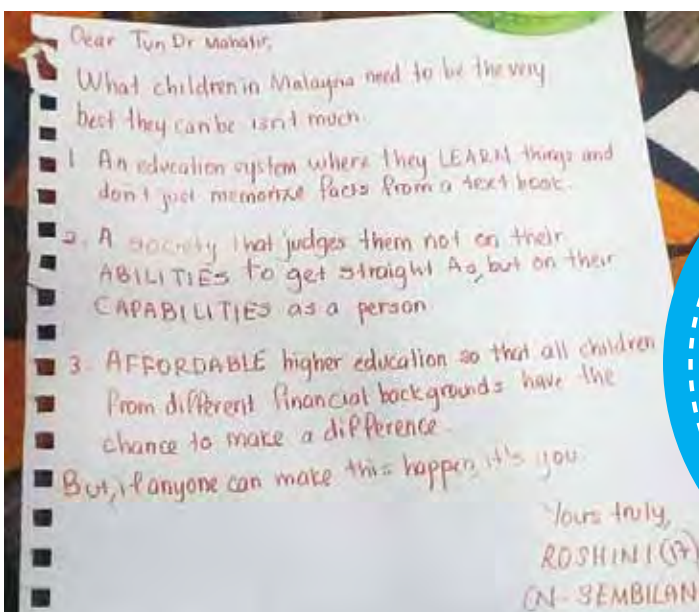
Some pointed out that education should also inculcate ethical and respectful behaviour.

"A child educated only at school is an uneducated child. Completing the school syllabus is not education—there is experience, awareness, self-confidence, rationality, good manners and dignity. When there is moral (studies) taught in school, why do social issues still exist? This clearly shows our education system is not practical enough...I am not condemning our nation's education system but I'm worried about our future generation. Most importantly, fair education opportunities for everyone is much needed. Schools should start encouraging students to perform well in sports, music, art and social activities."

S. Mitra, 16, Selangor

"As a secondary school student in Malaysia, I really hope that the current system will be reviewed because it is outdated for us. As students, each of us has different strengths and weaknesses. The current system doesn't allow us to portray these talents. Also I hope that debate schools will be set up for people who are interested in debating."

Maximillian, 16, Johor



"A society that judges them not on their ABILITIES to get straight 'A's, but on their CAPABILITIES as a person."  
Roshini, 17,  
Negeri Sembilan

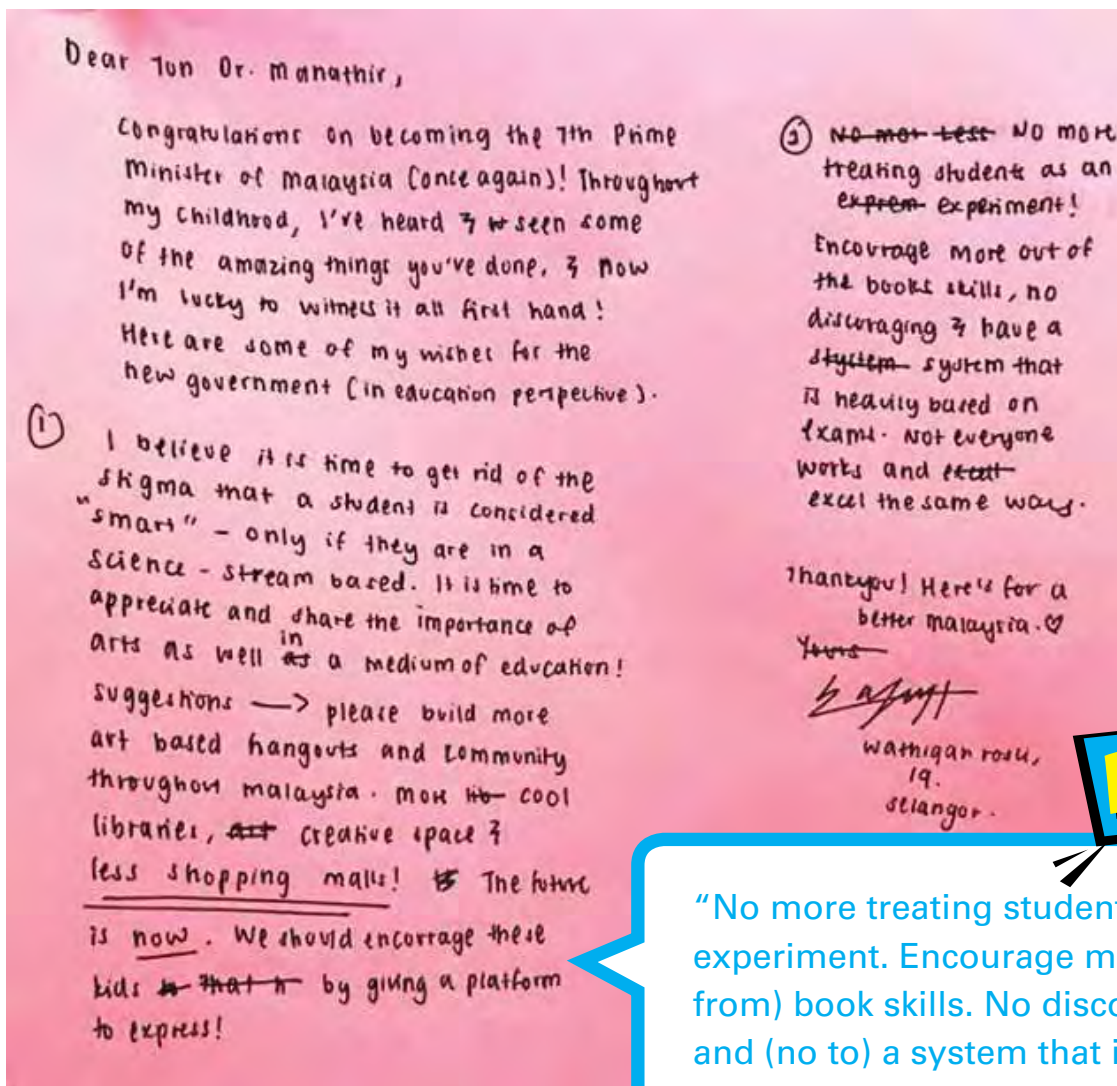


“(Kita harus) mengutamakan sistem pembelajaran abad-21 ini kerana terdapat pelajar di Malaysia yang bosan dengan cara pengajaran kini.”

Nabil, 14, WP Kuala Lumpur

“Children need to be exposed wider and deeper into the things they are interested in. With this exposure, we might (develop) scientists and inventors that might contribute a big achievement to our country. It can also change our living style.”

Syed Yazid, 20, Perak



"My hope for now is (that you can) give us the best education system for us and the coming generation."

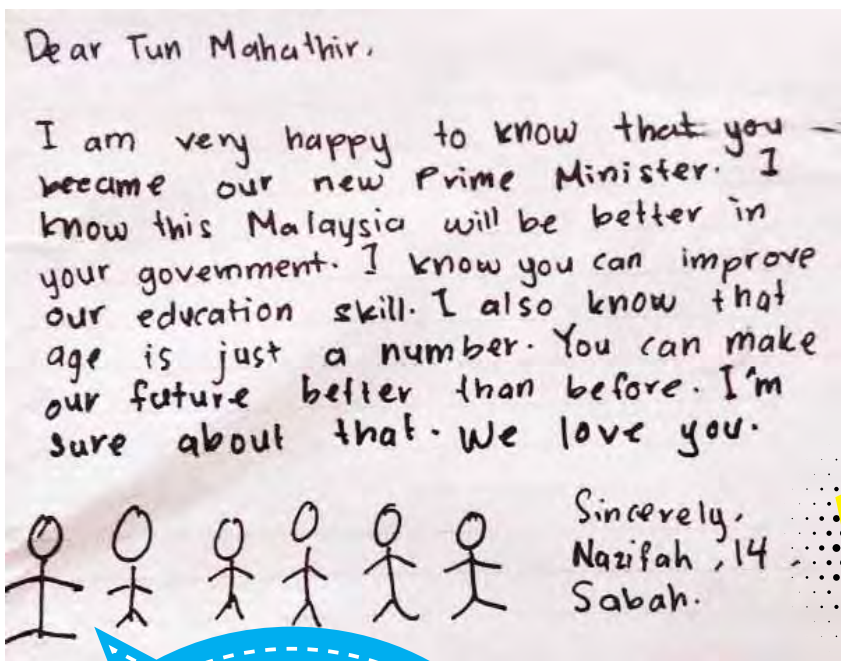
Fareeha, 19, Penang

"Prepare a platform for youth to improve their soft skills such as leadership qualities and problem-solving techniques."

Sugunah, 18, Selangor

"I hope the new Government will introduce a modernised education system, increase the percentage of students who enrol in government universities, widen job opportunities for fresh graduates, and increase the opportunity for students to study for the course they chose as their first choice."

Jayasri, 17, Perak



"I know you can improve our education skills."  
Nazifah, 14, Sabah

"Saya berharap agar pihak kerajaan dapat meningkatkan lagi penggunaan Bahasa Inggeris di Malaysia. Selain itu, mengurangkan harga bagi buku rujukan dan buku latihan untuk para pelajar. Seterusnya, menyediakan kemudahan teknologi untuk para pelajar yang tidak berkemampuan, misalnya komputer riba dan Internet."

Anglyne, 16, Sarawak

The children and youth had concrete ideas on the types of reforms they hoped to see to help them learn. These ranged from having English-medium classes and better facilities to reducing paper usage and introducing ID cards in schools.

“I think the Ministry of Education must pay more attention to the level of English education in the younger generation. I also hope that there will be some modification to the history textbook in the future. Because students not only should understand our country’s history but also gain a deeper understanding of the histories of foreign countries.”

Karen, 18, Penang

“Change the education policy and re-introduce English-medium schools. Enough of studying Maths and Science in Tamil, Chinese and Malay. Standardise everything to one language.”

Shalini, 17, Selangor

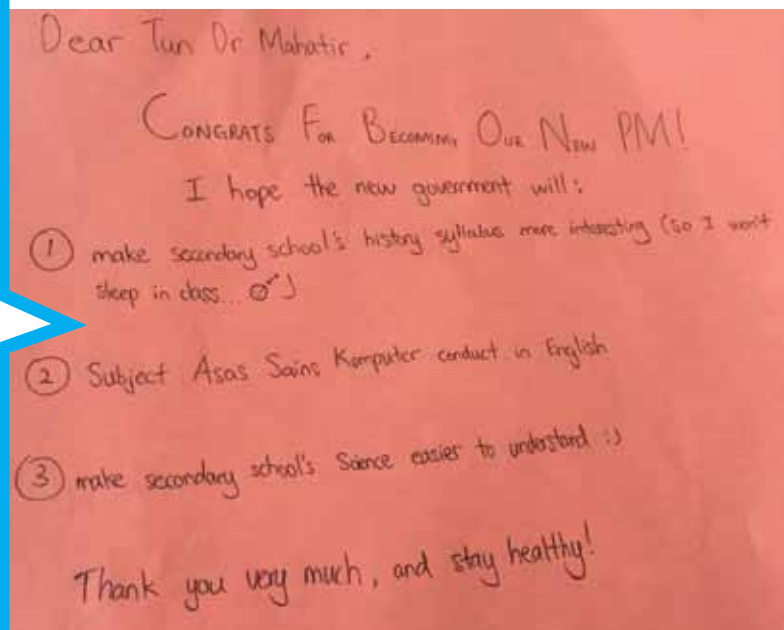
“I think education should not only focus on how to be smart and get great grades but also focus on how to have great manners and respect others. I have seen a lot of my friends who were too proud of their knowledge to the point that they disrespect their elders.”

Shafiqah, 15, Pahang

“I hope the new Government will:

- make the secondary-school history syllabus more interesting (so I won’t sleep in class...).
- conduct Asas Sains Komputer in English.
- make secondary-school science easier to understand.”

T.T.T., 14, Selangor



“Change and simplify the syllabus, bring back KBSM, reduce paper usage in the education system, stop the PBS (Pentaksiran Berasaskan Sekolah) system, (ensure) fair education opportunities according to merit.”  
Shahana, 16, Selangor

“I would like to suggest the use of ID cards for students. ID cards help give us confidence, it helps teachers with e-attendance, can be used to borrow books from public libraries. It will help centralise the system and we can promote it as a bus card or a Touch ‘n Go card.”  
Louis, 16, Johor

“Dear Tun Dr Mahathir, please help children by helping them (get) a better school. I find most of the schools which are far from the city are really in need of a great building for their school so that they can learn in a comfortable environment.”  
Ezra, 15, Sabah

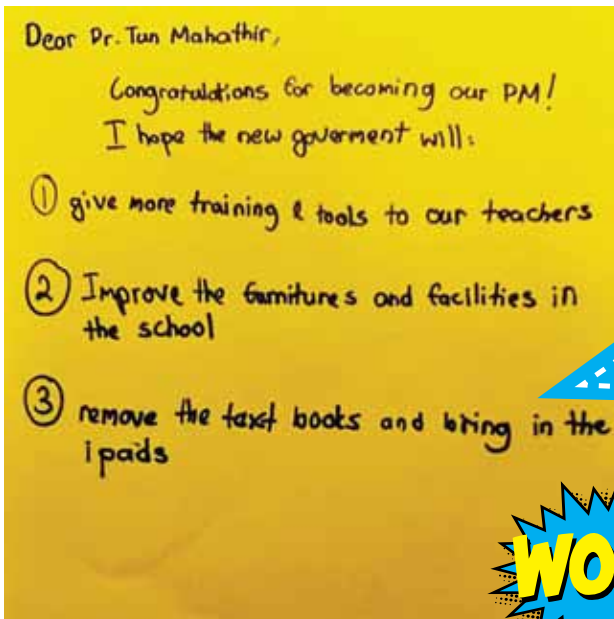
Dear Tun Dr. Mahathir,

Below are my suggestions to our new government based on my 6 months student exchange program in US.

- I wish the education system in Malaysia not to be only based on examination. Home works, presentations and projects can be considered as the grade as well.
- Segregation of students with different levels by separation of classes should be abolished. This is because it segregates and marginalises the students who are weaker in their studies.
- Choice of subjects in school must be added so that students can choose the subjects that there are interested in.
- Students who are visually impaired must also have more choice of subjects to choose, especially in Form 4 and Form 5 study.
- Presentation activity and frequency need to be increased as it will help to raise the confident level & articulation skills for the students.
- For questions which ask about our opinion, it should not be hundred percent based on answer schemes because there is no right or wrong answers for opinion questions.
- Since English and Mathematics are important subjects for examinations, these papers should not be marked too linear. All subjects must have a fair marking system.

Teoh, 18, Penang (totally blind)





"...give more training and tools to our teachers, improve the furniture and facilities in school, remove the text books and bring in the iPads."

Herrish, 11, WP Kuala Lumpur

There were also requests to make the vocational education system better.

Yet others asked that education be made more affordable and accessible to every child, including those with disabilities, refugees, and undocumented and stateless children.

"Please do change the vocational programme to be better. I don't want the younger generation to hate the government just because of the...system of vocational college."

Wildani, 21, Perak

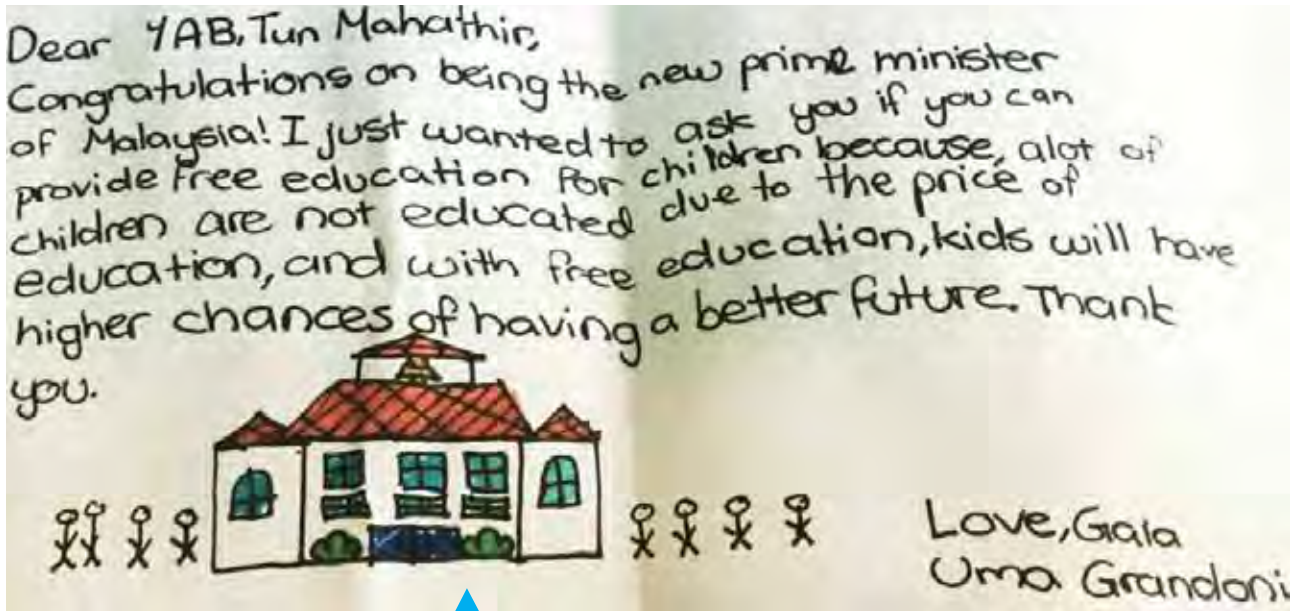
"Dear Dr Mahathir, can you help me...to educate everyone from the refugees to the undocumented children."

Shelyna, 15, WP Kuala Lumpur  
 (undocumented child)

"Dear Tun Dr Mahathir, my name is Jan. I have cerebral palsy. Congratulations for being our PM. I like to wish for my friends and me to go to school like other kids. Saya nak semua tempat OKU-friendly. Siapa yang salah guna kena denda."

Janna, 13, WP Kuala Lumpur  
 (living with cerebral palsy)

“(Ensure) equal education and job opportunities for autistic citizens; provide quality educational centres for autistic students.”  
Sugunah, 18, Selangor



“I just wanted to ask you if you can provide free education for children...with free education, kids will have higher chances of having a better future.”  
Gaia, 11, WP Kuala Lumpur



“I want to go to school.”  
Ana, 7, WP Kuala Lumpur  
(undocumented child)

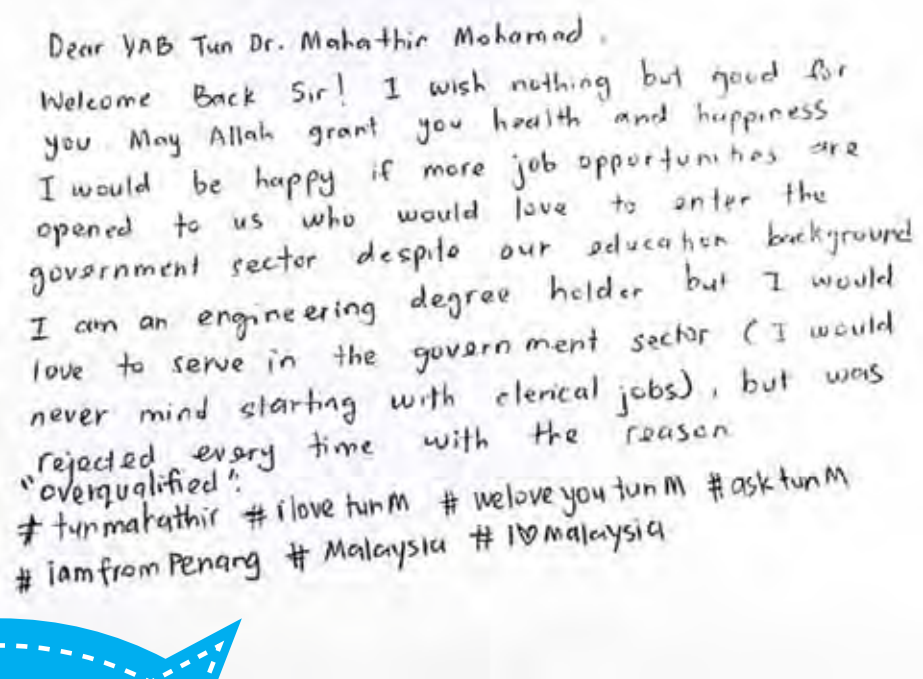
These ideas and solutions demonstrate our children and young people's maturity and understanding that a quality education is not only needed to liberate their intellect and unlock the imagination, it is also fundamental for their self-respect.

Their views and ideas are also in line with Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals which upholds that inclusive and equitable quality education is important to allow our youth to gain decent employment and to ensure sustainable development.

"As a youth, I hope the Government will:

- Reduce the rate of jobless graduates.
- Focus more on an education system (that allows) students to enrol in public universities and institutions based on one's credibility and merit."

Sugunah, 18, Selangor



"Dear Tun Dr Mahathir, I would be happy if more job opportunities are opened to (those of) us who would love to enter the government sector despite our education background."  
 Nur, 24, Penang





**AWESOME!**

Miza, 19, WP Kuala Lumpur

To Tun M,

I hope that in the near future Malaysia will be a more accessible place for PWDs to be free and independent. I hope that Malaysia will be more inclusive when it regards to PWDs in every aspect. Give us the opportunity to prove that we can give back to the community and country.

Regards,

a very hopeful PWD



# CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



In 2010, Malaysia acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This meant making a commitment to fulfill what was in the Convention, including upholding the rights of children with disabilities as outlined in Article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: "...Children who have any kind of disability have the right to special care and support, as well as all the rights in the Convention, so that they can live full and independent lives."

"I hope that (in) the near future, Malaysia will be a more accessible place for PWDs (persons with disabilities) to be free and independent. I hope that Malaysia will be more inclusive in regards to PWDs in every aspect. Give us the opportunity to prove that we can give back to the community and country."

Miza, 19, WP Kuala Lumpur  
(living with spinal muscular atrophy)

The children and youth speak out for the inclusion of children with disabilities in every aspect of society, from access to facilities to having their capabilities acknowledged in society. This also upholds the agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals that progress and development must be enjoyed by all—and that no one is to be left behind.

“People who are visually impaired must be treated equally and their capability of having achievements must not be looked down upon by society.”

Teoh, 18, Penang (totally blind)

Dear dr Mahathir.

My name is Nikhil and I use a wheelchair.

I have cp that is why I am typing not writing.

Can we have more mrt with wheelchair signs and more cinemaers with lifts so I can wach star wars.

School is ok we need more computers.

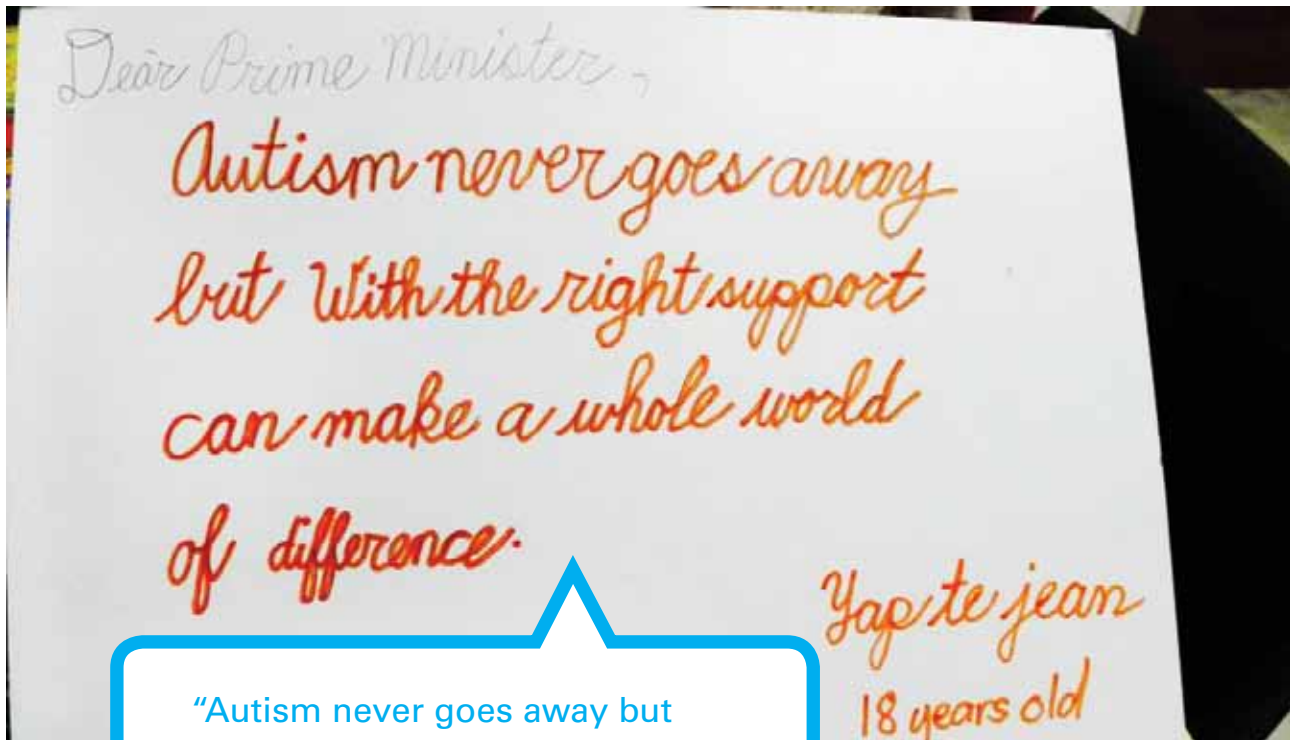
All the best.



“Can we have more MRT with wheelchair signs and more cinemas with lifts so I can watch *Star Wars*.”

Nikhil, 9, WP Kuala Lumpur (living with cerebral palsy)





"Autism never goes away but with the right support can make a whole world of difference."

Te Jean, 18, Selangor  
(diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder since age two)



In 2016, UNICEF Malaysia commissioned a study, *Childhood Disability in Malaysia: A Study of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices*, which revealed among other things that while "on the surface, social attitudes towards children with disabilities and their families tended to appear sympathetic, supportive and understanding...many participants maintained that Malaysian society was still not inclusive or equitable."

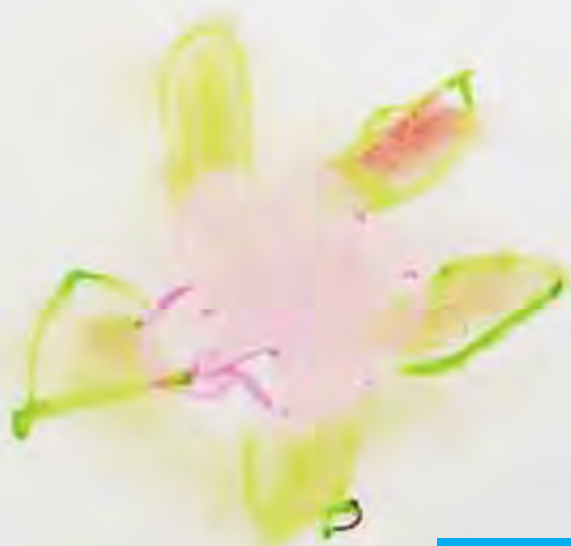
The study also showed that children with disabilities often faced exclusion not because of their disability, but because those around them had "a lack of understanding about what one should do or say when approaching children with disabilities."

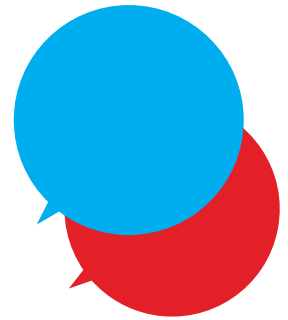
But how did the children view themselves in the communities they lived in and among the people they interacted with? Through activities such as storyboards, role-playing exercises and illustrations, it was discovered that children with disabilities rarely depicted themselves as having a disability. In their drawings and stories, they portrayed themselves as being no different from their non-disabled friends. It is not surprising then that children with disabilities in Malaysia have one simple message: "Treat me as an equal."

19/may/2018

Dear  
Tuni

I want to go to school. when I grow  
up. I ~~am~~ want to be like you.  
I wish my country to stop  
fighting. and I hope my  
mother and sister will  
be happy. |





# UNDOCUMENTED, STATELESS AND REFUGEE CHILDREN

A number of children and youth who responded to **#lettertomyPM** highlighted the plight of undocumented, stateless and refugee children. Some of the letters were written by the affected children themselves.

"I want to go to school. When I grow up I want to be like you."

Jara\*, 9, WP Kuala Lumpur  
(undocumented child)

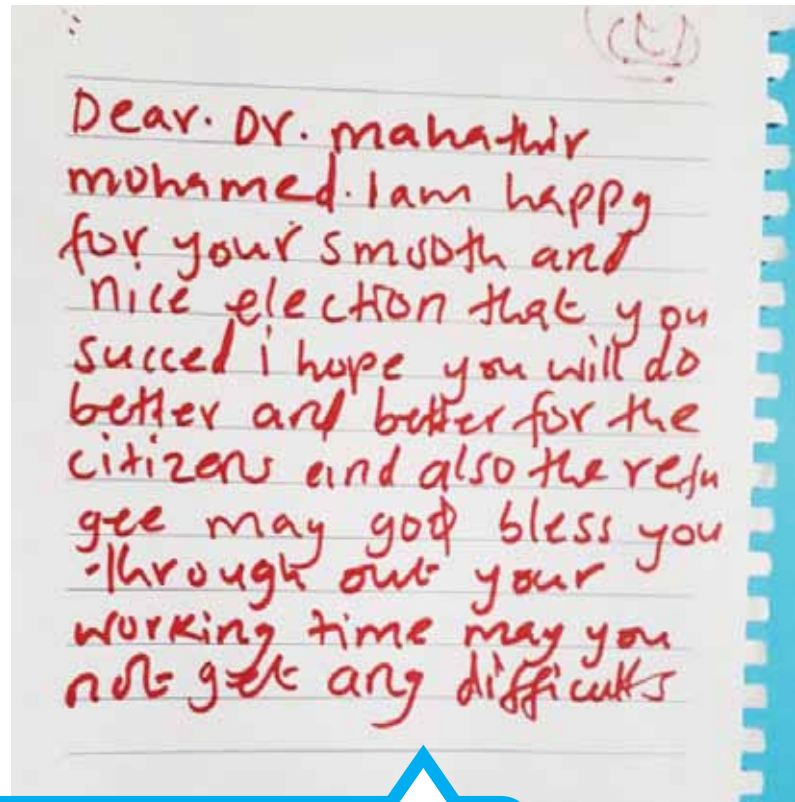


The number of stateless children in Malaysia is unknown. According to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, at least 10,000 people in the peninsula, and an unknown number in Sabah and Sarawak, are denied nationality. They remain excluded from enjoying access to education and healthcare facilities, and are not allowed to be employed legally and earn a living.

In addition, as at the end of May 2018, some 157,580 refugees and asylum-seekers had been registered with UNHCR in Malaysia. This includes 41,600 children below the age of 18. These are children who live without access to the many things we take for granted.

“Dear Tun Dr Mahathir, please don’t forget about all the children, the stateless, the poor, the refugees, and all the young people who look up to you.”

Fara Amalina, 23, WP Kuala Lumpur



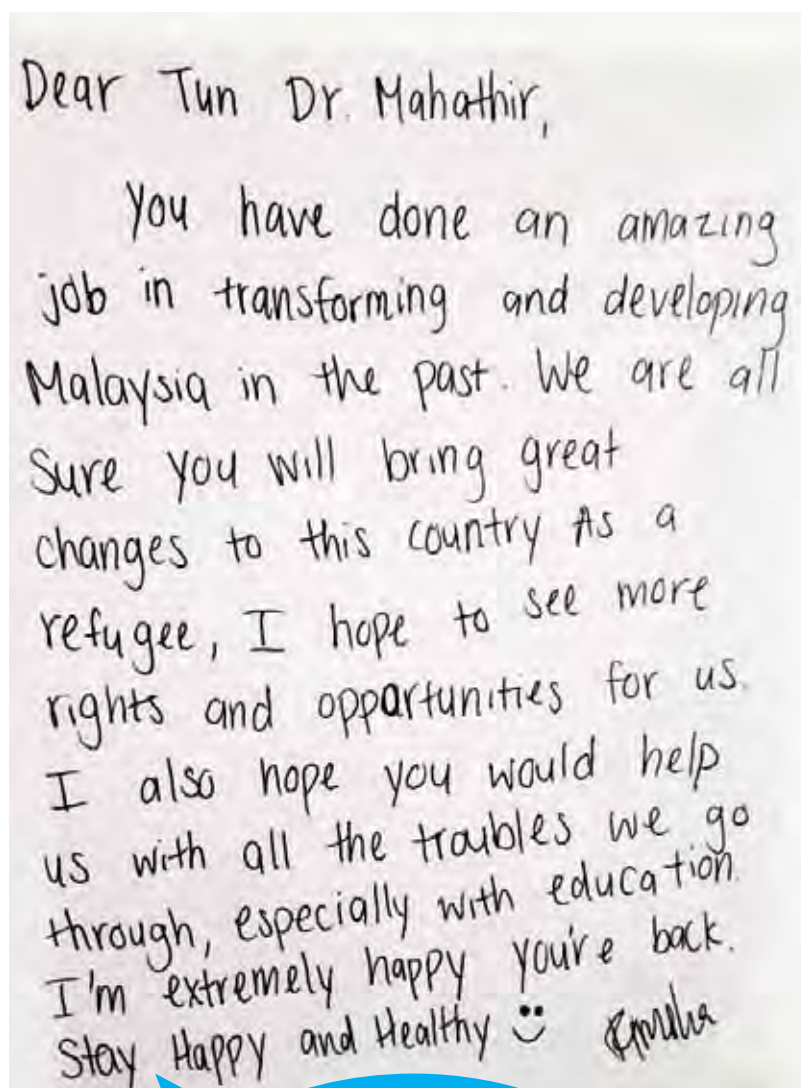
“Dear Tun Dr Mahathir, I hope you will do better and better for the citizens and also the refugees.”

Amiin, 15,  
WP Kuala Lumpur



While Malaysia has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), it has maintained a reservation on Article 7 which states that children have the right to a legally registered name that is officially recognised by the Government; and that they have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country). Malaysia has also not signed the Statelessness Conventions.

Malaysia initially had a reservation on Article 22 of the CRC, which addresses the right of refugee children to enjoy special protection. This has since been removed. However, Malaysia has still not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention, which outlines the rights of the refugees and the responsibilities of host countries.



Dear Tun Dr. Mahathir,

You have done an amazing job in transforming and developing Malaysia in the past. We are all sure you will bring great changes to this country. As a refugee, I hope to see more rights and opportunities for us. I also hope you would help us with all the troubles we go through, especially with education. I'm extremely happy you're back. Stay Happy and Healthy 😊

Rimsha



"As a refugee, I hope to see more rights and opportunities for us. I also hope you would help us with all the troubles we go through, especially with education."

Rimsha, 19, WP Kuala Lumpur  
(refugee community)



Dear Dr. Mahathir,  
I'm Geeti Ara and I'm a refugee in Malaysia from Pakistan. Congratulations for your victory. After being inspired by your glorious era, I drew this portrait of yours in 2015 at the age of 15 years. I never thought that I'll witness you being the prime minister. I'm hoping that you will ratify the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and give basic rights to refugees who have been suffering here for so long. I believe that you have the courage to do it. All refugees are longing for this change.  
Yours truly,  
Geeti Ara



"Dear Dr Mahathir,  
I'm Geeti and I'm a refugee in Malaysia from Pakistan. Congratulations on your victory. After being inspired by your glorious era, I drew this portrait of you in 2015 at the age of 15. I never thought that I'll witness you being the Prime Minister. I'm hoping that you will ratify the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and give basic rights to the refugees who have been suffering here for so long. I believe you have the courage to do it. All refugees are longing for this change."

Geeti, 18, WP Kuala Lumpur (refugee from Pakistan)



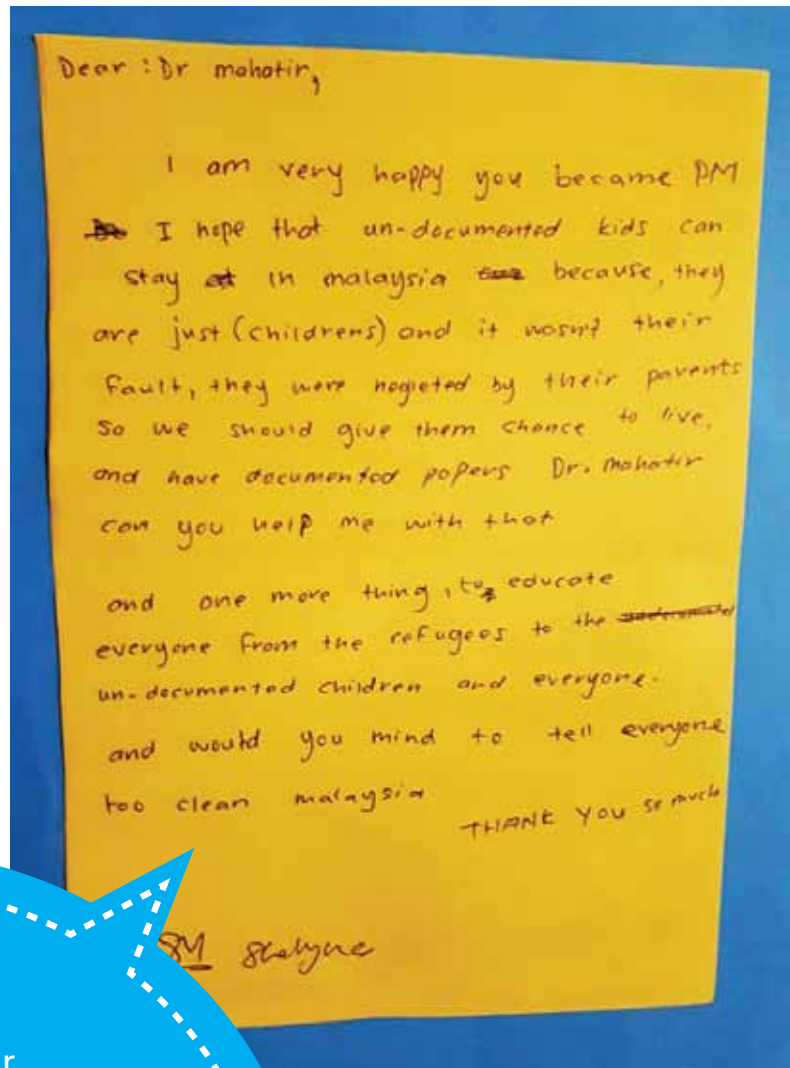
For the many children who live in Malaysia as refugees, and for those who are undocumented and stateless, the inability to claim their rights has left them in limbo.

The issues confronting undocumented, stateless and refugee children are manifold, and these children face multiple obstacles as they go through life.

Moving forward to achieve the 2030 objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals, there is a need to put in place policies that will include these marginalised communities. It can start with the first step of fulfilling their one simple desire: "I want to go to school."

"Dear Tun, I just want to learn, because when I grow up, I want to be a scientist. I hope you are well and in a good state of health."

Naima\*, 11, WP Kuala Lumpur (undocumented child)



"Dear Dr Mahathir, I hope that undocumented kids can stay in Malaysia because they are children and it wasn't their fault, they were neglected by their parents. So we should give them a chance to live and have documented papers. Dr Mahathir, can you help me with that?"  
 Shelyna, 15, WP Kuala Lumpur (undocumented child)

Dear Dr. Tun Mahathir,

I am truly happy to know that you are back once again as Malaysia's Prime Minister. I hope the new government can now

- ① Choose the right candidates as our ministers
- ② Reduce the poverty in the country so that all children will have the same opportunities
- ③ Improve the education system so that it can be world-class

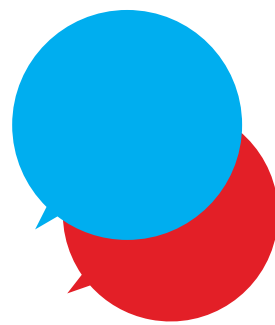
I know you can do it Tun.M

#MALAYSIABOLEH

Regards,

Viishnu MOHAN

# DECENT LIVING FOR ALL



People living in poverty have a right to be helped and in this respect the children and youth of Malaysia possess a strong sense of justice. They ask their new Government to take care of the underprivileged and the homeless and wish that *“everybody in the country can stay in a comfortable home and have proper education without being concerned about food and shelter.”*

*“Reduce the poverty in the country so that all children will have the same opportunities.”*

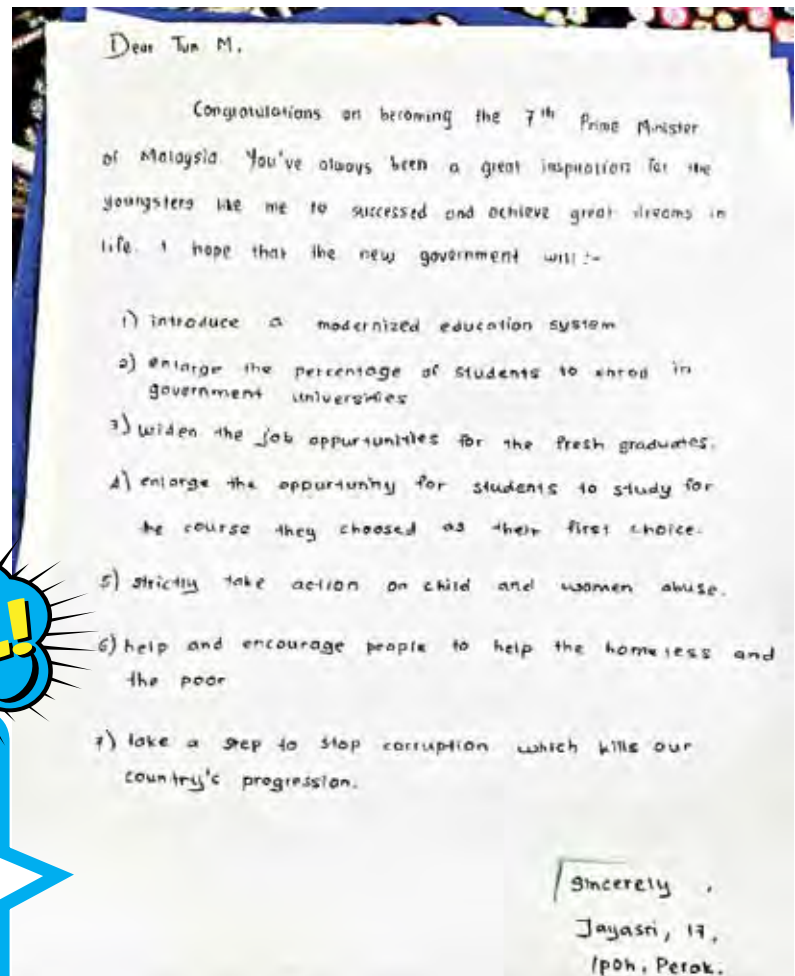
*Viishnu, 14, WP Kuala Lumpur*

Children from households that live in poverty do not get to enjoy equal opportunities. They don't get the nutrition they need, which in turn leads to poor health. Often, they do not enjoy the support of a nurturing home environment that is needed to ensure they develop and thrive. They are more vulnerable to being exploited, abused, discriminated against and stigmatised.

Sustainable Development Goal 1 states that "eradicating poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice and the key to unlocking an enormous human potential. Together, we can feed the hungry, wipe out disease and give everyone in the world a chance to prosper and live a productive and rich life."

"Affordable higher education so that all children from different financial backgrounds have the chance to make a difference."  
Roshini, 17, Negeri Sembilan

"More concern for poor people."  
Venice, 16, Sabah



"Help and encourage people to help the homeless and the poor."  
Jayasri, 17, Perak



LETTER TO OUR 7<sup>TH</sup> PRIME MINISTER  
TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

Dear Mr Mahathir Mohamad I wish you good health and luck to rule our contry. I hope you can make the ~~can~~ country a happy and balanced <sup>place</sup>. As a child I always saw beggars on the ground and I always wanted to help, I would love it if you helped the elderly beggars and ~~the~~ disabled on the streets that are struggling. Good Luck ruling **MALAYSIA**  
Thanks for reading my letter  
Wen Wey

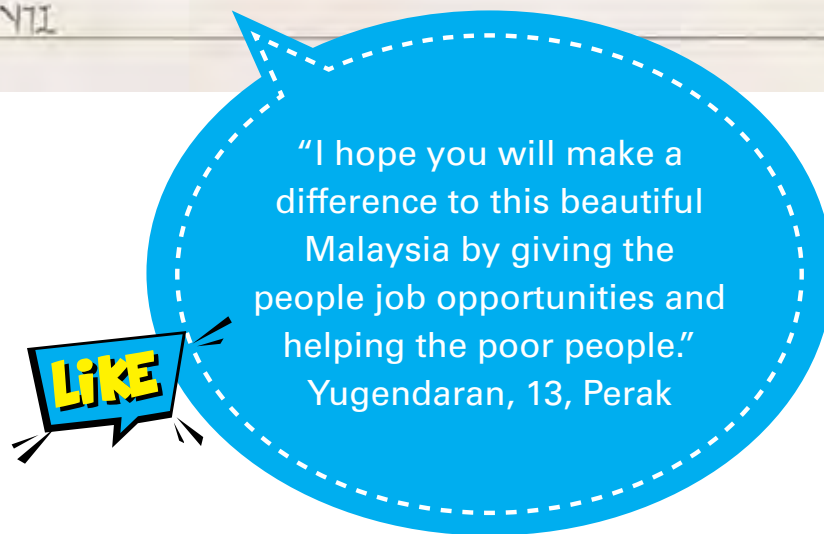
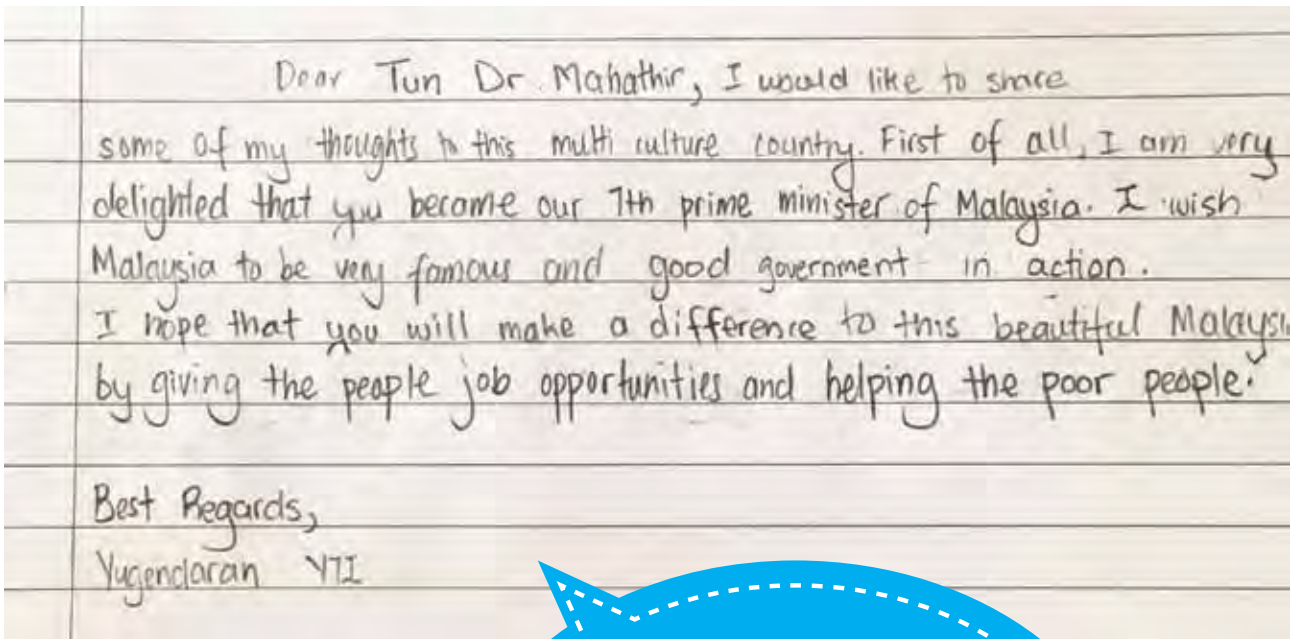
"As a child I always saw beggars on the ground and I always wanted to help. I would love it if you helped the elderly beggars and disabled on the streets who are struggling."

Wen Wey, 12, Perak

**LOVE IT!**

"I wish everybody in the country can stay in a comfortable home and have proper education without being concerned about food and shelter."

Yen Zen, 15, Selangor



In 2018, UNICEF and research institute DM Analytics released a report entitled *Children Without: A Study of Urban Child Poverty and Deprivation in Low-Cost Flats in Kuala Lumpur*. The report mapped out the long-term effects of poverty on children who came from families living in poverty. These children faced a lack of access to early education and proper nutrition. Lack of nutrition led to stunted growth and impaired cognitive and mental development. This in turn led to a lack of social mobility. With such a shaky start in life, many children grow up unable to break out of the poverty cycle.

It is imperative that we heed the concerns of the young who have lent their voices to ensuring that those living in poverty are not left behind.

As Dewi Seribayu, a Mass Communications and Media Studies student, writes in the report: "Poverty is unforgiving especially towards children. Poor people struggle with hopelessness, anxiety, shame, and inferiority. It is undeniable that this is the result of being voiceless and powerless."

To the honourable Prime Minister, Tun Mahathir

Congratulations upon being our 7th Prime Minister. There are so many things happening in our country today. As a youth of this country, I would like to suggest a few things for a better Malaysia. They are as following...

- ↳ Please visit your people in this country starting from those who are poor, sick and abandoned in the streets more often.
- ↳ As students, we would wish that the school education system will prioritise good social skills and physical activities more than focusing too much on our public examination.
- ↳ Give scholarship for those students who have received excellent results who came from poor families.

"Please visit your people in this country starting from those who are poor, sick and abandoned in the streets more often. Give scholarships for those students who have received excellent results who come from poor families."  
Anthea, 16, Kedah



Salam Tun Dr. Mahathir

I respect you highly, but in regards to certain policies promised, I wanna say...

We need more investment in public transport.

NOT ENCOURAGE MORE USAGE OF CARS.

We need more bus, bike and pedestrian lanes.

NOT MORE HIGHWAYS INTO THE CITY.

We need more trees planted and public spaces.

NOT DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS FOR ROADS.

We need clean, walkable, inclusive cities.

NOT HAZY, CONGESTED AND POLLUTED CITIES.

The whole world is starting to realise that the movement of people is more important than movement of cars.

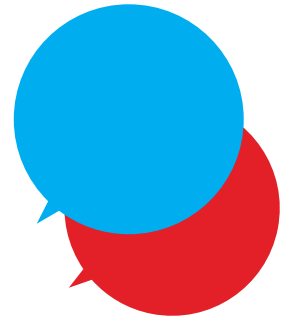
When are we going to realise that?

Fazley, 17  
Putrajaya, MY.

Fazley, 17, WP Putrajaya







# SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES

How will our cities and towns cope with the demands of an increasing population? Public transport, traffic congestion and linkages between towns are some of the issues the young people are asking the new Government to look into. There was a call for eco-friendly development with people on bikes and pedestrians enjoying safer passage to move around cities.

**“We need more investment in public transport. NOT ENCOURAGE MORE USAGE OF CARS. We need more bus, bike and pedestrian lanes. NOT MORE HIGHWAYS INTO THE CITY. We need more trees planted and public spaces. NOT DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS FOR ROADS. We need clean, walkable, inclusive cities. NOT HAZY, CONGESTED AND POLLUTED CITIES.”**  
Fazley, 17, WP Putrajaya

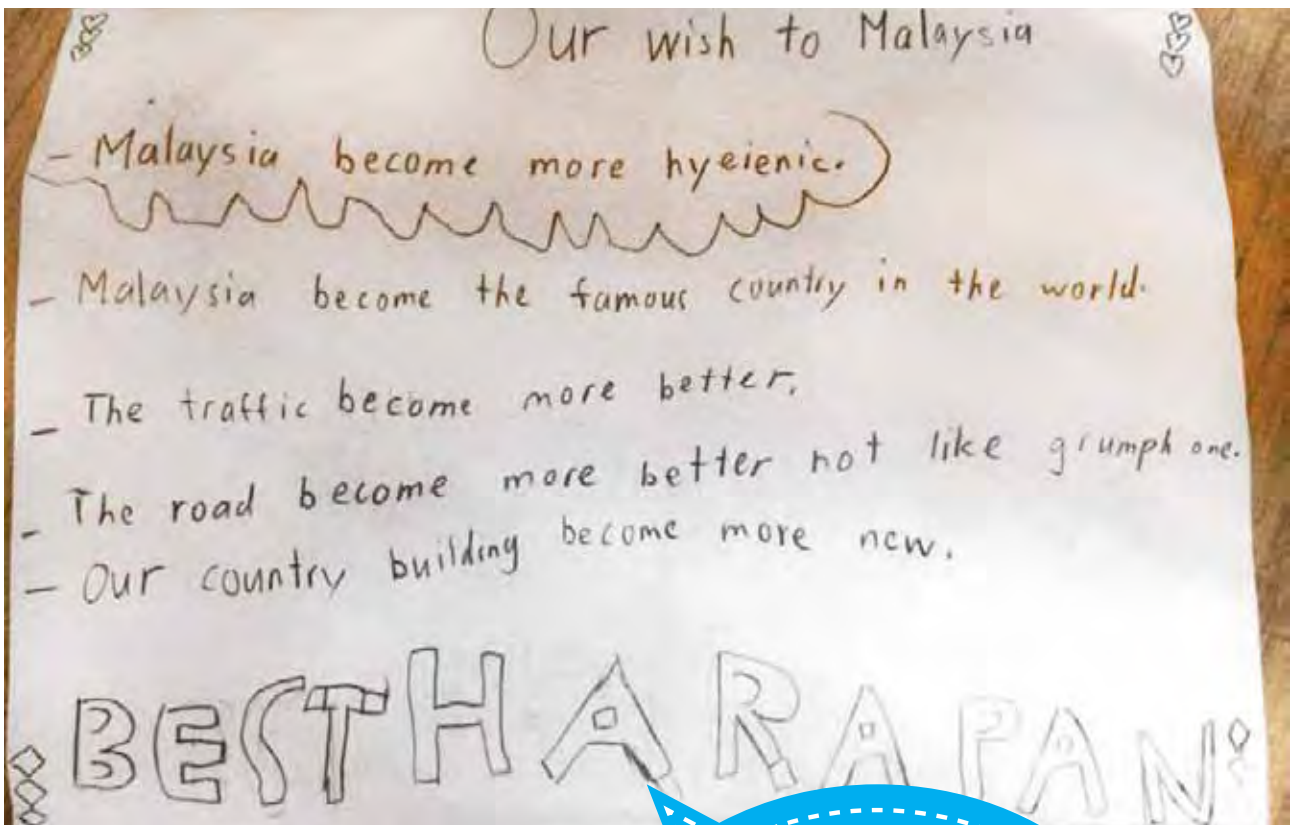
There were also requests for better infrastructure and better quality roads. The issue of e-hailing services versus regular taxis was also brought up—with one youth asking for a solution so that both sides are able to earn a living.

“Find a way to reduce traffic jams in Malaysia. Also improve the quality of public transport. Road quality around Malaysia could also be improved.”

Shalini, 17, Selangor

“Improve transportation, fix the potholes on the road, and repair school buildings so students have a better place to study.”

Venice, 16, Sabah



“Our wish for Malaysia: Malaysia becomes more hygienic; the traffic becomes better; the roads become better...; buildings become more new.”

Reanna, 7, Sarawak

## Dear Tun Mahatir,

Congratulations on being sworn in as the 7th Prime Minister of Malaysia. Despite being at age of 92, you realized the suffering of the people and decided to step up. I hope that you are in the pink of health as you take up this role as PM. I also pray that God will keep you safe and well.

As a secondary school student in Malaysia. I really hope that the current system will be reviewed because it outdated for us. As students each of us has different strengths and weaknesses. The current system doesn't allow us to portray these talents. Also I hope that debate schools will be set up for people who are interested in debating.

Also the fact that public transport such as Ride hailing apps and Taxis should be combined together. Due to the presence of the internet this should be able to help overcome this problem. Because I feel that it is not fair for taxi drivers and that they don't earn enough.

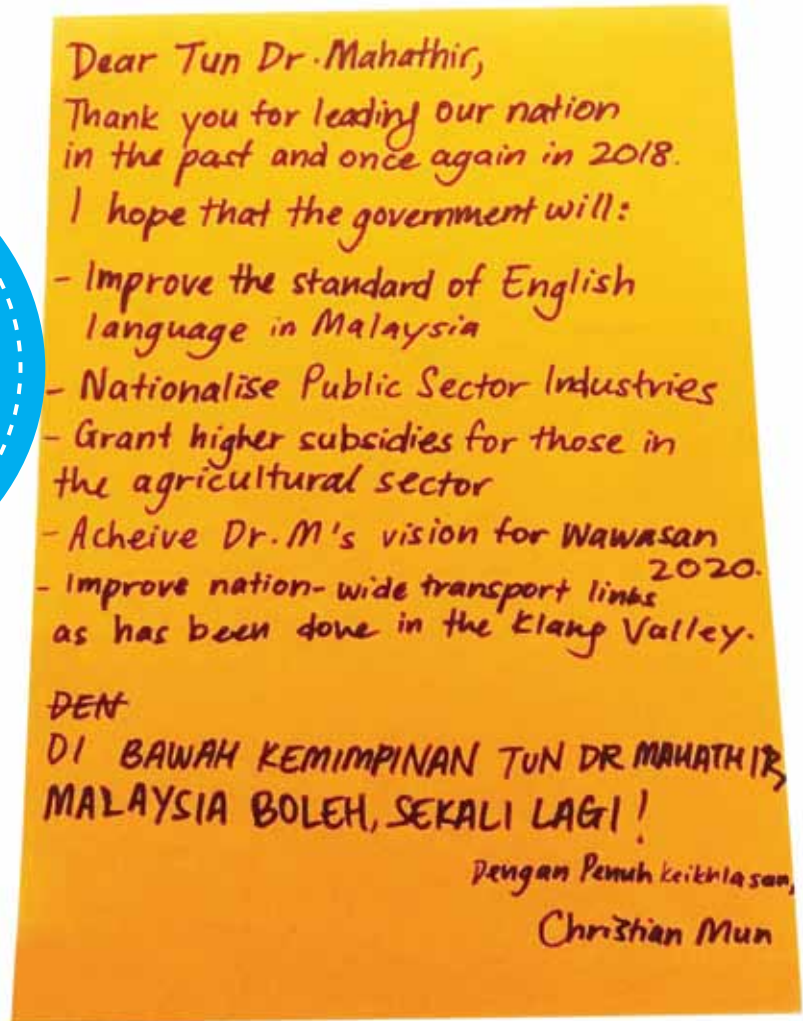
Lastly, I would like to thank you for your service to Malaysia. I hope that this new dawn will bring great development to this country.

**Regards**

**Maximillian Lee, 16  
Johor Bahru.**

“...Ride hailing apps and taxis should be combined together. Due to the presence of the Internet, this should be able to help overcome this problem. Because I feel that it is not fair for taxi drivers and that they don't earn enough.”

Maximillian, 16, Johor



Acknowledgement was made of the role that culture and art play in communities, and there was a request for the country to *"strive to advance (libraries, museums, science centres and art galleries) to be equal to those in cities like New York and London."*

"I wish for the new government to acknowledge the importance and cultural significance of our libraries, museums, science centres and art galleries; strive to advance them to be equal to those in cities like New York and London."

Mia, 13, WP Kuala Lumpur

"Please build more arts-based hangouts throughout Malaysia. More cool libraries and creative spaces and less shopping malls."  
Wathiqar, 19, Selangor



Dear Tun,

Congratulations on your appointment as the PM. Thank you for sacrificing your retirement for the betterment of Malaysia. As a youth, I hope to see more youth centres, where youth can go and hangout, and study, and plan events and do things to change their community. My parents say that I always stay back from school to look, but this is because I have no safe space to meet my friends. I would also like for there to be more involvement from the youth especially in formulating policies for the children themselves. The future is bright and we hope for it - to bright for children too.

Yours truly,

*Suhaila*



“Dear Tun Dr Mahathir, I hope to see more youth centres for youth to hang out and study and plan events to change their community.”  
Nur Suhaila, 21,  
WP Kuala Lumpur

Another aspect of an inclusive city is one that is accessible by those with disabilities. These requests are indicative of the lack of access, faced by children with disabilities, to the activities that others take for granted.

“Public transportation like the LRT should be added in some of the states in Malaysia so that it will be more convenient for the people who are visually impaired to travel around the city for a reasonable price. Public facilities in all parts of Malaysia such as the tactile walk way must be accessible for the blind people. This is because the accessible public facilities will enable blind people to use them without any barrier.”

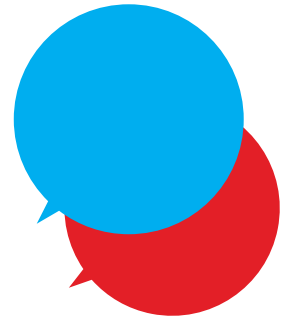
Teoh, 18, Penang (totally blind)



Dear Tun Dr. Mahathir,

I hope Malaysia put more effort into conservation to protect our unique flora & fauna.

Hao Ran, 17, Selangor



# ENVIRONMENT

The Earth lies at the centre of all civilisations. Without a place to call home—one that can provide the natural resources to sustain life—communities will cease to exist. But sustainable development can only be achieved if we protect our environment and keep the Earth’s ecosystem safe.

In these letters, the children and youth of Malaysia have lent their voices to Mother Earth, asking our leaders to do better to protect the planet they will inherit. They ask that everyone do their bit, understanding that effort needs to come from all parts of society.

“I hope Malaysia (will) put more effort into conservation to protect our unique flora and fauna.”

Hao Ran, 17, Selangor



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals highlight the inter-dependency between the environment and sustainable development which is crucial to the fulfillment of a wide range of human rights—the right to clean air to breathe, safe water to drink and healthy food to eat. These are some of the rights that the young are talking about as they ask the Government to “initiate an eco-friendly learning, working and living environment for Malaysians” and to make Malaysia “a zero-waste country.” They also speak up about the importance of recycling and voice concerns over the cleanliness of their cities.

“The government should SERIOUSLY consider the ISSUE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION in Malaysia and implement effective solutions to solve it.”  
Karen, 18, Penang

“I hope that the new government will lead and initiate an eco-friendly learning, working and living environment for Malaysians.”  
Subhashini, 18, Perak

“Protect the nature of Malaysia! Khazanah termahal Malaysia adalah sekitarnya. Rakyat needs to understand why we need to recycle. Of course, government also needs to play a role. And if possible, saman orang buang sampah merata-rata!”  
Shafiqah, 15, Pahang

“Be strict in implementing the rules and regulations for the cleanliness of the cities.”  
Venice, 16, Sabah

**BEST!**

“I hope Malaysia will become a zero-waste country.”  
Rahmah Isa, 10, Perak

To: Tun Dr. Mahathir  
Assalamu Alaikum!

The whole school has been asked to write to you about our wish for Malaysia and our want for Malaysia. These are mine:

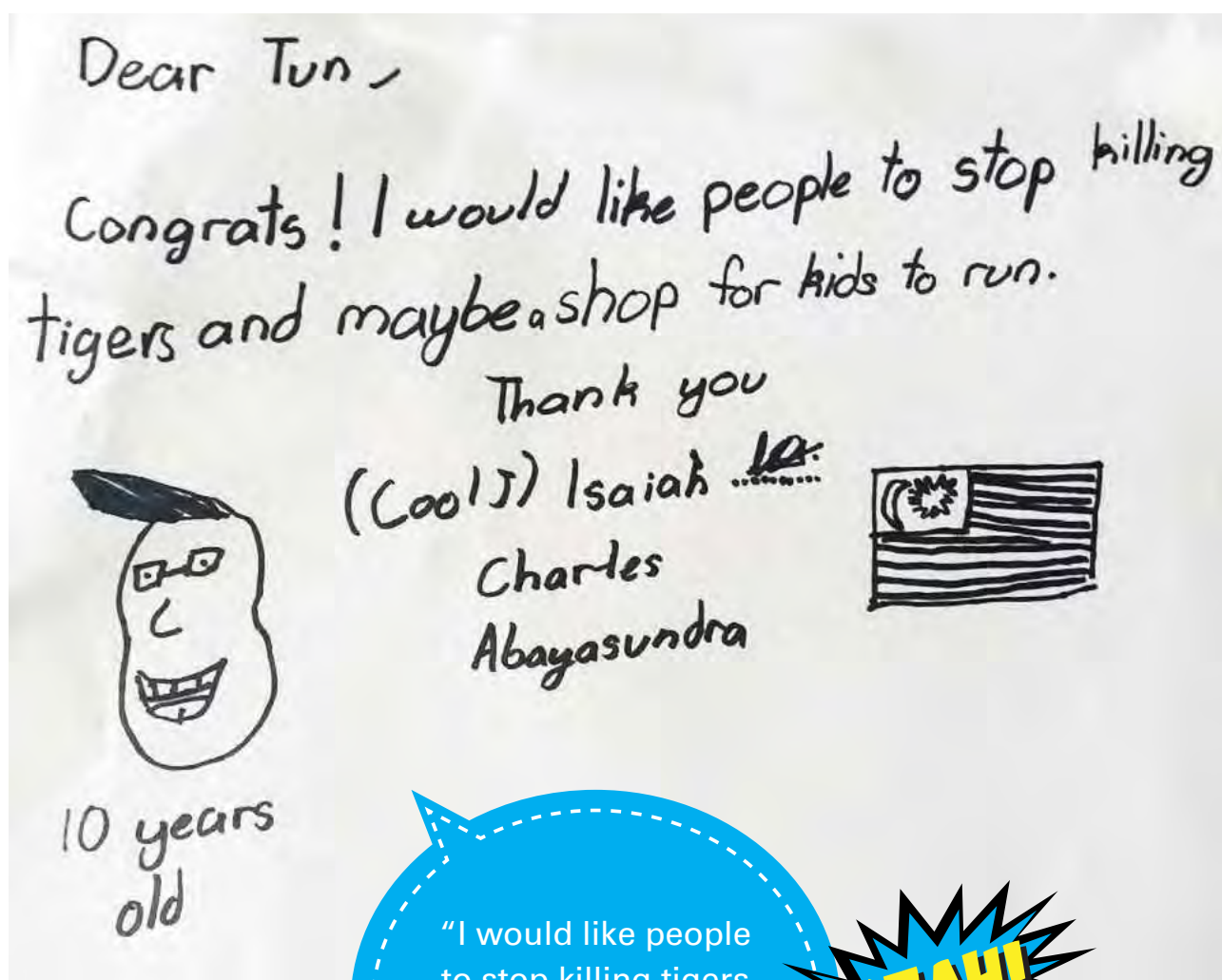
1) I hope Malaysia will become a zero-waste country.



Children also see the role played by the agricultural industry in ensuring sustainable farming and providing food to “*feed our future generations*”. They call for the Government to support and provide subsidies for the sector.

“Malaysia has always been a country filled with abundance of resources. Why should we buy rice from other countries when we can (grow) our own in our amazing homeland. We must improve our agriculture system to feed our future generations. Support our rural farmers and livestock owners.”

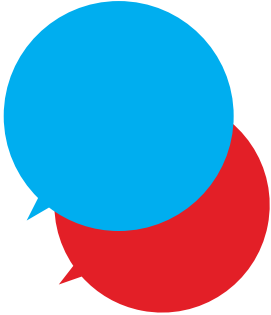
Shalini, 17, Selangor



Dear Tun Dr. Mahathir

I'm pretty sure that  
Malaysia is in a better place  
now. You have done so  
many things for the  
Country and Malaysians.  
You are the biggest role  
model for the younger  
generation. Thank You  
so much Sir!! We love  
you Sir♥

Kashvini Suria, 18, Selangor



# TUN DR MAHATHIR—AN INSPIRATION AND A ROLE MODEL FOR THE YOUNG

The children and youth have found great inspiration in the seventh Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. From congratulatory notes to well wishes for many more healthy years, the young people of Malaysia express their admiration for the PM who has proven that age is just a number. Calling him a *“model example of an inspiring and responsible political leader,”* a *“hero”* and a *“legend,”* these letters also speak of the hopes of the young people in Malaysia for a better future.

*“Dear Tun Dr Mahathir, you are the biggest role model for the younger generation!”*  
Kashvini Suria, 18, Selangor



Dear Tun M ,

Welcome back legend ! You are my inspiration . I'm pretty sure most of the Malaysian happy and glad when you become our 7th prime minister . I'm not surprising that you will become the prime minister again because I really sure you are the one who really suit for that position . Age only a number and you have prove to everyone you can do it. Congratulation to you Tun M . Hope you will do the best for our country especially for us your next generation. Nevertheless, you still need to take care your health and get some rest . I hope Malaysia will become one of the best and well-known country again . We so proud of you become the prime minister and also education minister . Wish you can make a better change for us especially in the education system and be a great leader with honest and trustworthy . Thus, Malaysia can strive for a better future . Lastly, please save Malaysia 🙏 . And I wish I could meet you . We love you Tun M !

Sincerely ,  
Syifa syairah / 22 / student

“Dear Tun Dr Mahathir,  
Welcome back legend.  
You are my inspiration.”  
Syifa Syairah, 22,  
Penang



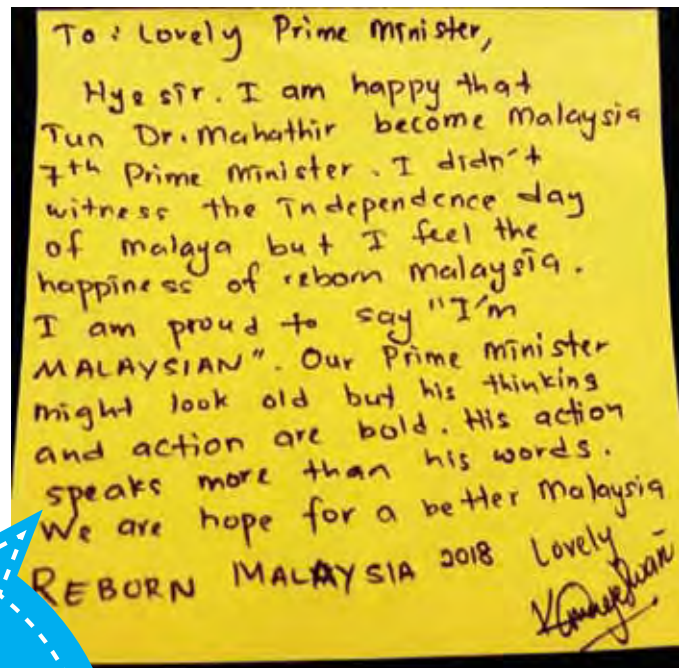
“Dear Tun, despite the fact that you're old already and need time for yourself, you decided to stand up for us your Rakyat. So damn proud of you Tun. A new government, 1,000 steps closer to a better country. Not to forget your ever so loving and dearest wife. Love you both. Long Live!”  
Khessnie, 17, WP Kuala Lumpur

“Dear Tun Mahathir, you can be a good Prime Minister. Your age isn't a barrier to you to be Prime Minister. You have lots of experience in politics. My request is to make Perlis a great state. You are our pride. You can make Malaysia always number one!”  
Nurin, 12, Perlis

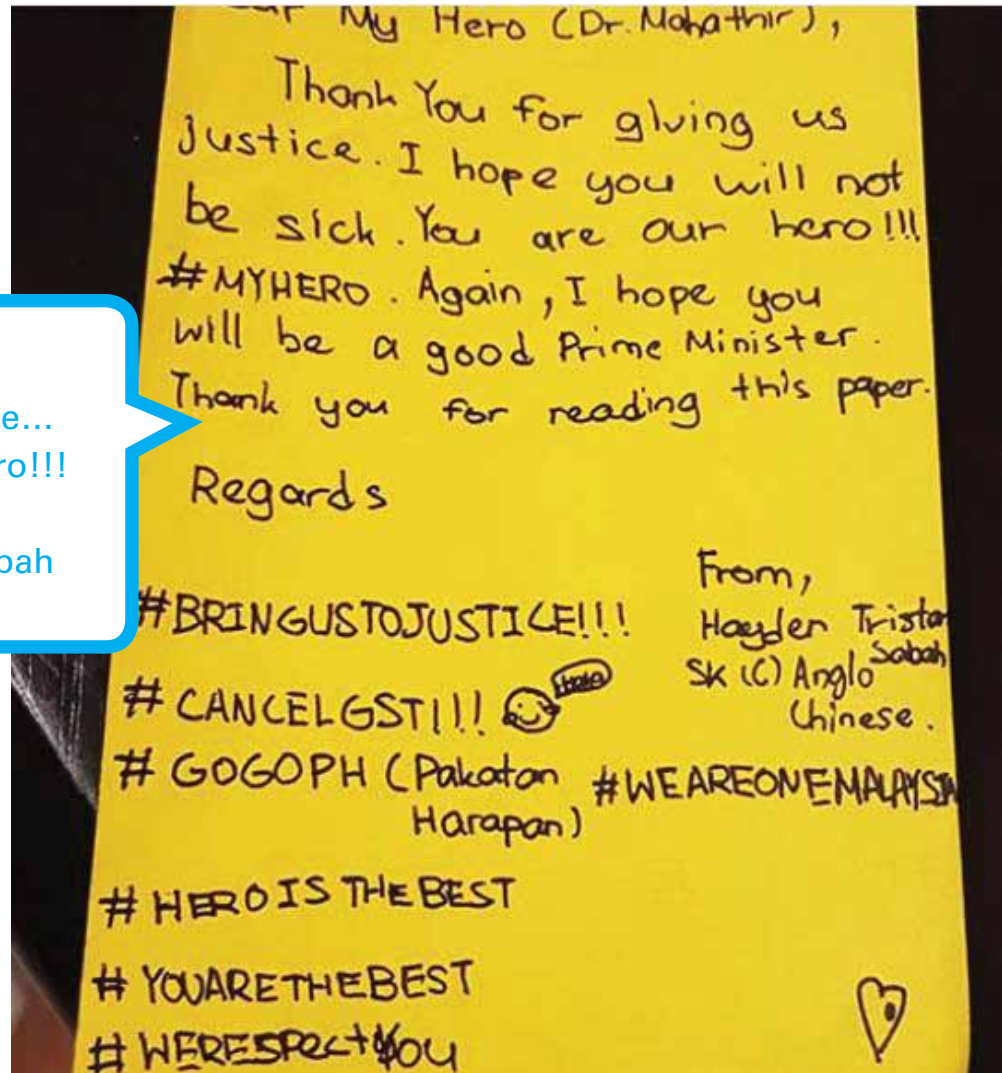


“I am really glad that you became the Prime Minister. You proved that age doesn't matter and it is just a number. You are an inspiration and role model to me, the entire nation and the world. Thank you so much for such a remarkable way of living life.”  
Kartikeya, 18, WP Kuala Lumpur

“To our wonderful PM:  
Thank you for protecting our Malaysia! Thank you for not giving up on our Malaysia! I hope you live happily and strong so you can continue to protect our country. May God bless you.”  
Rachel, 11, Sabah



“Our Prime Minister might look old but his thinking and action are bold.”  
Kanageswari, 20, Melaka



“Thank you for giving us justice... You are our hero!!! #MYHERO”  
Hayden, 11, Sabah



“I hope one day, Malaysia will become... great again with your leadership.”  
Ainun, 19, Johor



## Dearest Tun Dr. Mahathir,

Few weeks ago, I started to make a point to read about politics, deep down in the thoughts, wondering how can we work together to move this country forward. The answer to those thoughts was rather clear: vote. You have voted, you made a difference. Your vote is your voice. I know that political campaigns can sometimes seem complicated. Before the 14<sup>th</sup> GE took place, politics in Malaysia was nothing more than a contest of ego or the domain of special interests.

9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 was a day to witness this historic 14<sup>th</sup> General Elections after 61 years to have a change in governance.

Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the very inspiring 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister, claiming victory at the age of 93 (soon to be) proves that anything is possible. His passion, determination and strength to build a better nation, Malaysia is truly admirable. He is truly a visionary legend. Malaysia now, a country that will live up to its legacy as the global leader with all the good jobs and new businesses that follow.

Never been a more proud Malaysian.

**LOVE IT!**

"His determination and strength to build a better nation is truly admirable."

Harveena, 20, Perak

"Dear Tun Dr Mahathir,  
You know best!"  
Hani, 19, Selangor

Dear Tun Dr. Mahathir,



it's great to have you back as our PM.  
We all hope for Malaysia to be great again.  
We all will support you, in making  
Malaysia a country that we will be proud of.

You know best in what you are doing.  
Our prayer and love is always with you.

Much Love,



Dear Tun Mahathir  
We would like to be  
Clever and Strong like You.  
Thank You Aunty's  
from  
- Ariq (8)  
- Wafyq (7)  
- Wadeed (6)

"We would like to be  
clever and strong  
like you."

Ariq, 8; Wafyq, 7; and  
Wadeed, 6, Selangor





“Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
We love Malaysia  
And we love you too!”  
Levy, 12, Sabah

“I hope with your  
guidance and help, we  
Malaysians can strive  
for a better future.”  
Yanyin, 17, Johor

Dear Tun Dr. Mahathir,  
Thanks for everything you have done.  
I hope with your guidance & help,  
we, Malaysians, can strive for a better  
future. We love you so ♥♥  
  
love,  
Yanyin.

"You have proven (to) the nation that nothing is impossible...I have learned something from you: 'Don't see where you fall, see where you slipped'"

S. Heramban, 19, Selangor

"I am so happy at last I can wake up without worrying about what's gonna happen to Malaysia. I do really love you as my idol. Tun, please take care of your health and send my love to Tun Siti Hasmah. You guys are very lovable. I love you so much Tun."

Wildani, 21, Perak

"I pray that you live a long and blessed life. Congrats on being the new Prime Minister and I wish that you have the courage to face any difficulties and have faith in what you are achieving."

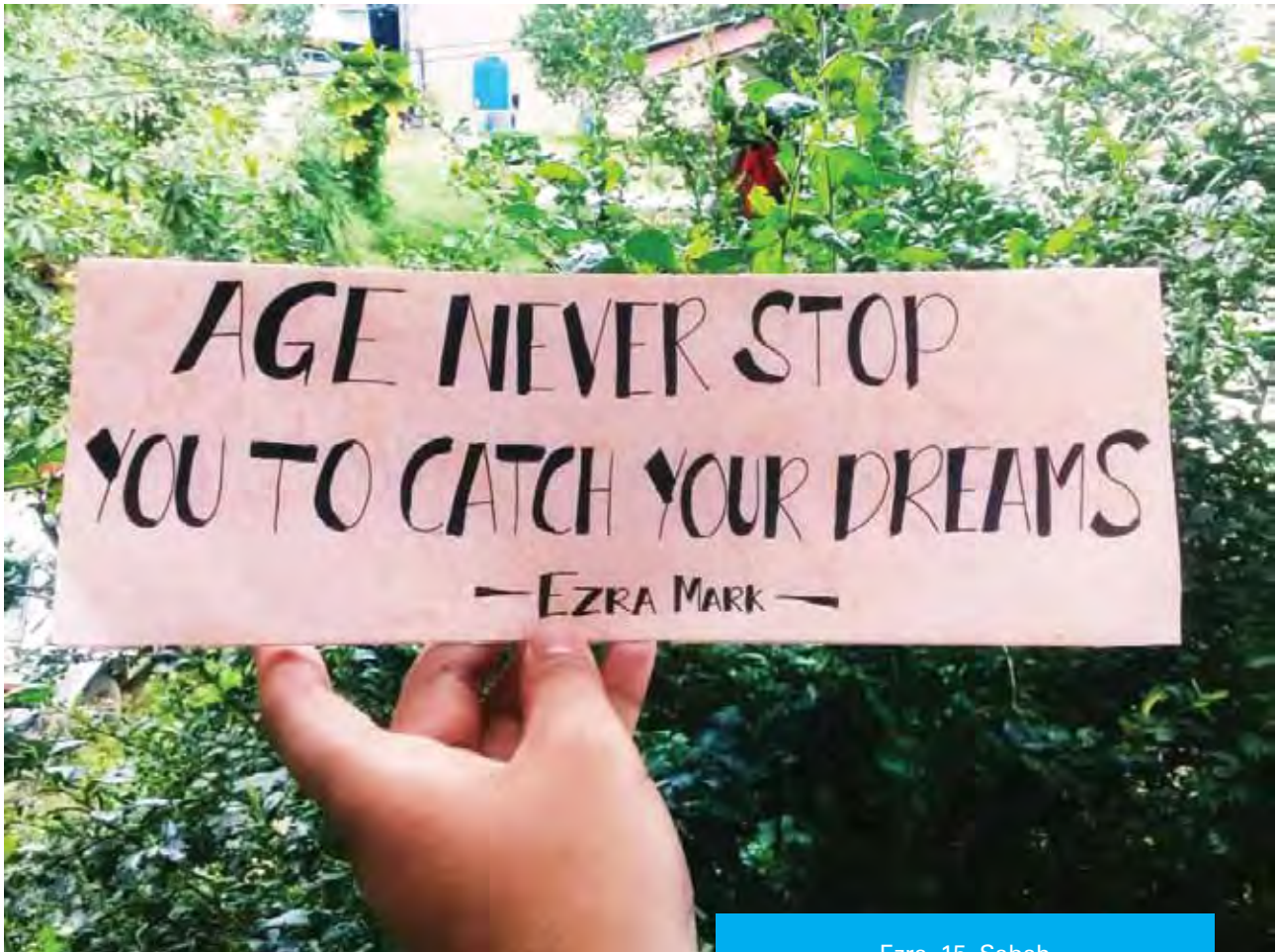
Venice, 16, Sabah



Maria, 17, Sarawak








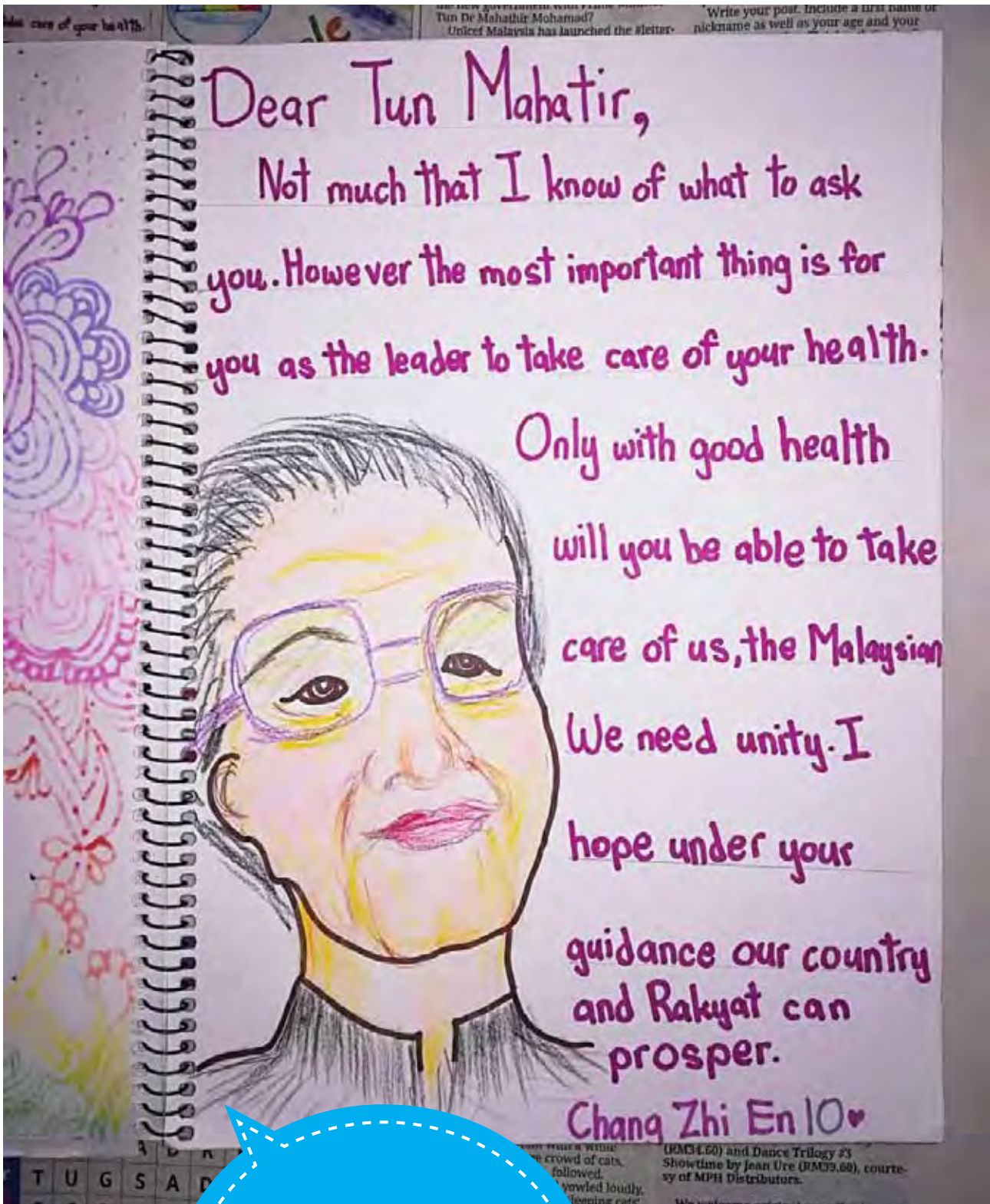


Ezra, 15, Sabah

“Dear Tun Mahathir,  
I want to thank you  
for your services.”  
Sarah, 16, Kelantan

Dear Tun Mahathir,   
I want to thank you for  
your services. You are the  
Prime Minister who is in awe  
I hope you can bring Malaysia  
as a new and progressive  
country!! Lots of L.O.V.E!   
p/s : To my fellow Malaysians, let us all  
come together for a better Malaysia  
Regards : Sarah Fadzi 





“We need unity. I hope under your guidance our country and Rakyat can prosper.”  
Zhi En, 10,  
WP Kuala Lumpur

Dear Dr. Mahathir,

I am super glad you became Prime Minister. I really<sup>2</sup> hope you can be a good leader. And since I know ur ~~his~~ history when I was standard four, I really<sup>2</sup> super respect you!! And the whole Malaysia really<sup>2</sup> loves you all of our hearts. I know, you can make Malaysia be the most GREAT country! You're the greatest of all. When you're announced as my new Prime minister, I feel soooo relief. All the best!! I LOVE YOU & MALAYSIA SO MUCH!! Please take care of us!!

-Sharfah Nur Fateehah-

"Dear Tun Dr Mahathir, I really, really super respect you."  
Nur Fateehah, 14,  
WP Kuala Lumpur

**COOL!**

"You're one in a million, Sir."  
Renusha, 20, Kedah

Dear, \*  
TUN DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD

Welcome back to us Sir, We missed you \*  
Congratulations Sir, You made it and I'm very proud of you. You're one in a million Sir. \*  
You going lead us for the second time in our life \*

THANKS A BUNCH for our NEW MALAYSIA "

ALLAH bless you Sir!

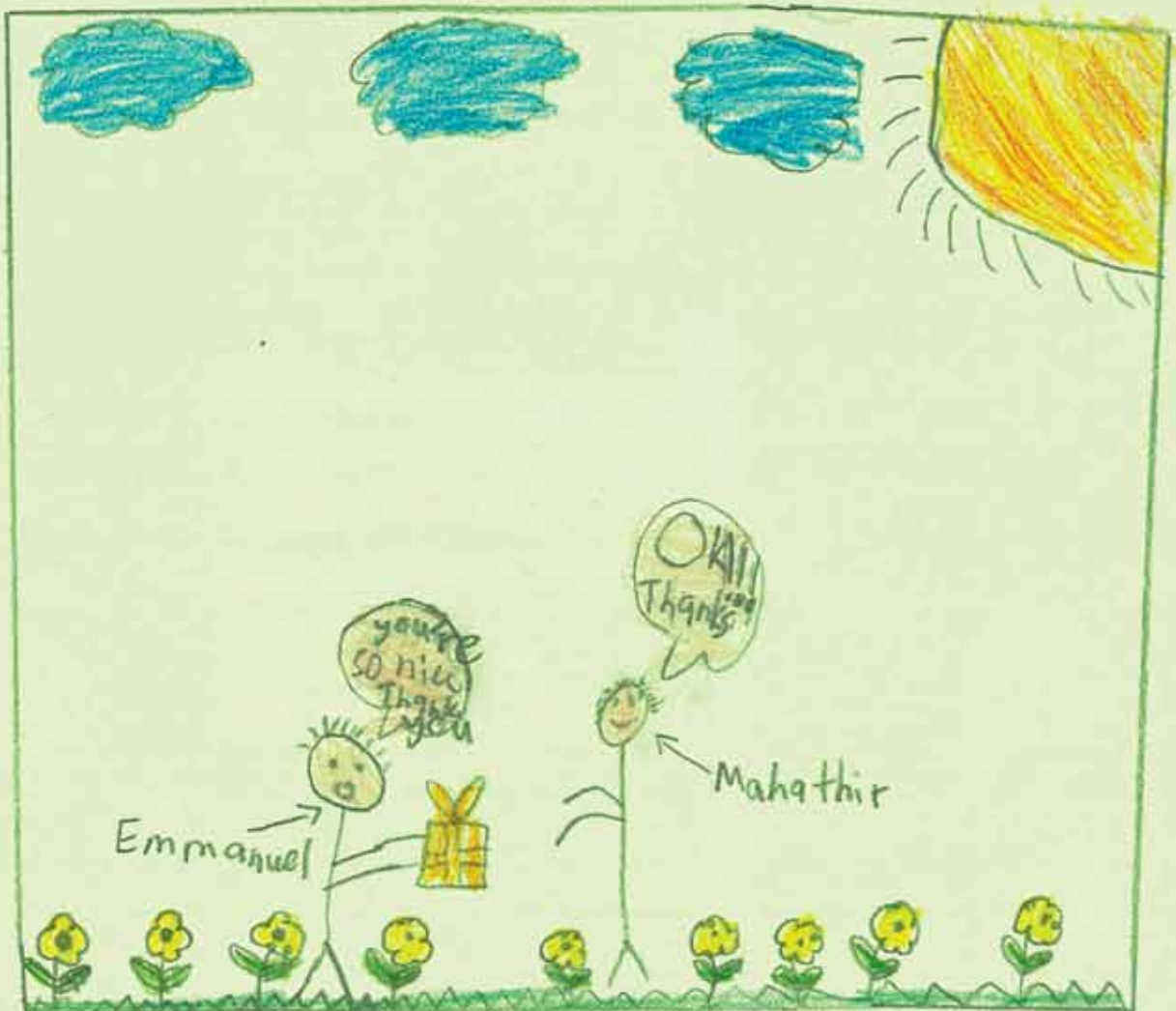
Renusha Muniandy



MAHAthir

WON

the  
Vote









**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

**Malaysia Country Office**

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