



馬來西亞佛教總會

PERSATUAN BUDDHIST MALAYSIA
MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

182, Burma Road, 10050 Penang Tel: 04-2262690 (hunting) Fax: 04-2263024
E-mail: mba.hq@mbahq.my / mba.hq@malaysianbuddhistassociation.org
Website: www.malaysianbuddhistassociation.org

United Progress Towards National Prosperity and Resilient Citizens

VEN. SECK JIT HENG
PRESIDENT
MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

The country's economy and the people's psyche have gone through three years of pandemic ravages and multiple political turmoil. Come this year, regardless of the subsidence of the pandemic, political situation, or economic activities, we are gradually heading towards peace and stability. Nevertheless, we need positive energy to restore vitality in the aspects of economy, politics, and social development.

After the three long years of epidemic and political instability either domestically or internationally, all sectors of our country's economy are facing the most significant challenges since the 1997 economic crisis. In order to push our nation's economy and society towards a prosperous and stable index, people from all walks of life must work together to actively contribute in their areas and sectors to jumpstart our country's economic wheel, thus driving the nation towards a more prosperous, peaceful, and stable Malaysia.

A nation will prosper only if the people are resilient and strong. Being strong and resilient does not only refer to the physical health of the people but, more importantly, the great patriotism between the ethnic groups. To love the country is to love its people and to love its people is to respect each other despite their ethnicities. With this, it would be unbelievable for the people to not be resilient and the country to not prosper. At this critical juncture, our Buddhist organizations are obligated to play a common role to motivate positivity in the hearts of the people; "solidarity" is the key for the Malaysian Buddhist community to accomplish this mission.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, almost all Buddhist organisations have been struggling with the shortages of volunteers and financial resources. After the pandemic, during our attempt to rebuild the nation, we found that elderly disciples and some volunteers are unable to return, while the youths have entered another stage of life; being accepted into universities, undertaken new employments or ventured into businesses, and entered into parenthood. As a result, all Buddhist organisations have generally regressed for several years in their overall operational capabilities, economic capacity, and human resources during the past three years. Buddhist temples and monasteries have always received offerings from the ten directions, accepting from ten directions and using them for the benefit of the ten directions in return. While Buddhism in Malaysia is currently facing the aforementioned difficulties, we are also dealing with the recovery of the nation's economy and situation after the major setbacks. Nevertheless, everyone has the responsibility to contribute to the country during this difficult situation, and in Buddhism,



馬來西亞佛教總會

PERSATUAN BUDDHIST MALAYSIA
MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

182, Burma Road, 10050 Penang Tel: 04-2262690 (hunting) Fax: 04-2263024
E-mail: mba.hq@mbahq.my / mba.hq@malaysianbuddhistassociation.org
Website: www.malaysianbuddhistassociation.org

there is a teaching of repaying the four kindness debt of gratitude. During this time, how can we not contemplate deeply on the obligations and responsibilities that Buddhism could fulfill towards the society and people's psyche in the future? Given the current circumstances, the most effective and appropriate action for Buddhism in Malaysia is to "United Progress Towards National Prosperity And Resilient Citizens". By working together with unity and solidarity, only then can we create a collective momentum that leads our people's hearts towards right understanding, cherishing blessings and fortune, kindling immeasurable loving kindness, compassion, empathetic joy and equanimity; creating an environment that inspires people towards harmony, positivity, inclusiveness and understanding, as well as working together to steer our country towards post-pandemic era, economic prosperity and political stability.

As disciples of the Buddha, we must always be mindful that causality of altruism is indeed benefiting ourselves. Practising Buddhism and purifying our minds and karmic effect begins with generosity, speaking kind words, helping others, and displaying empathy. With continuous practise we express moral purity and peace through action and speech, thus fulfilling our responsibilities as Buddhists. Only in this way, we will live up to the advice and teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha, and will not relinquish our original intention of taking refuge in the Triple Gem, as well as strengthening our good roots and blessed virtues which we have cultivated over many lifetimes.

May we continue to glorify the Buddha Day, may the Wheel of Dharma turns perpetually; wishing all a very Blessed Happy Wesak and may all beings be well and peaceful always.