

## Living a life integrated with integrity

### **Introduction**

The Electoral Reform opportunity can become a strategic agenda to assign, and give political rights to all Malaysians to live a life of destiny and dignity. Destiny calls us to be accountable and responsible finally to God. Dignity is living that responsibility and accountability with uprightness, honour and mutual respect; within the nation state.

When Mikhail Gorbachev introduced his concept of *perestroika* to the Russians, he defined the concept as *unity of word and deeds*, in the book with the same title. This was a different kind of reformation which he hoped for and sought for his nation crippled by dualistic ways of acting and living.

Can the next 6 months also afford Malaysians and opportunity to "redefine our concept of thought and life action?" We can think of it as "integrity hidup and telusan jiwa" or *living a life integrated with integrity; a life so open and transparent, that no one doubts another's serious intentions, as Malaysians citizens.*

### **Current problem of transparent living**

Many Malaysians have more than one residential home address. No human can live and work in two different locations at the same time. Therefore, one clear and important issue in the Election Registration and Reform process could be one's residential address.

One can work in KL and vote in Sabah or Kelantan, but that intent must become public and specific and therefore made explicit to the Registration Department, which then becomes the only source and basis of registering one's residential address. One's chosen registration address becomes the one's place of voting because this is where one chooses to exercise one's political choices and decisions. That also becomes the choice of one's nearest polling booths.

This initiative will negate the current non-transparent "movement of between word and deeds that happens today." Therefore, in this model of permanent residential address model, one cannot simply choose to register permanency where one does not have a personal postal address, and it also becomes one's permanent address for all other purposes. This will address many problems related to integration with integrity within a locality; for example, for residential privileges and local taxes. Even one's car registration would also use this address. The same address would apply for paying tithes. Theoretically therefore, if one has four wives and therefore four homes, one has to select the public and published residential address also.

In biblical times, for this same reason Joseph and Mary had to return to their home town to be available for the population census. Today, even the foundation and basis of our population census may be distorted because of this lack of "consistency in definition of a permanent residential address."

My prayer, YB Minister, is that your Select Committee would consider this proposal to make this change which will afford all Malaysians the opportunity to live lives of dignity and destiny and to honour God through their lives. May God Bless Malaysia!

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