

People of Malaysia

FIVE MINUTES



“I’ve worked 20 years in buildings and construction sites. I work with my husband while my only child lives in Johor with her family. Old people like me don’t have that many things to ask for. As long as I live every day, that’s good enough.”

Low Toh Choi, 58

Construction site worker
Melaka



“I am proud that during my time as Prime Minister, the country was stable, there were no racial outbreaks and there were no confrontations. And as a father, I was very proud when my first child was born. The only regret I have is that I couldn't finish my work as Prime Minister. There is so much more to do.”

Dr Tun Mahathir, 82
Former Prime Minister
Kuala Lumpur



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“I was born in this house and have lived here since. During the day, I make clothes for the people who live nearby. As a woman, you have to teach your children the right things so they become successful. It’s important to be the one who takes care of your own children, not a babysitter. The thing I value the most is a happy family living together.”

Zainon, 36
Housewife
Kampung Jaya Gadin, Pahang

“As a mother, all I hope for is to teach my son the right things and that he grows up to be a good man.”

Joy Entry, 28
Writer
Kuala Lumpur

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“There’s nothing much to do here. So all we do is play mahjong. It’s when we meet old friends and talk about our family. It’s how we pass our time. Nothing else we can ask for!”

Mahjong Guys
Pulau Ketam, Selangor





“I stay at home and take care of the family while my husband works the daytime as a rubber tapper. I have five children, the youngest is three. My hope for them is that they become successful in their lives. My hope for myself is that I lead an easy life and stay young forever.”

Zainab, 40

Housewife
Kampung Lubuk Setol, Kelantan

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“I just started as a fisherman. My father-in-law passed away two weeks ago and he left his boat behind so we decided to pick up where he left off. It’s tough nowadays to be a fisherman – there are not as many fish as before. I would definitely want more money. Would be great if somebody gave it to me so I can live an easy life.”

Yusof, 50

Fisherman
Balok Pantai, Pahang

“Staying in this town is good. Everything is cheap. Everyone is friendly. It’s a great place and it's not dangerous. What else is there to ask for?”

Vincent Ong, 55

Teashop worker
Melaka

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“My proudest moment, after the delivery of my children, would have to be my rally at Bangsar on the night before the 12th General Elections. Everyone who was there could see the seeds of multiracial politics in Malaysia were slowly being planted. I hope to be able to make a meaningful contribution to our national life and to serve the people of my constituency as best I can. I hope that all my actions come across as carrying the message that we need to change our current political culture of racial politics and patronage. You must live your life based on your convictions. If not, then it is a life not worth living at all. Plus, family, family, family – they make what you do worthwhile.”

Nurul Izzah Anwar, 29

Politician
Kuala Lumpur



“I was the first woman to start this village
I now live in. My late husband and I
arrived here to start a family and
a place to call home. Together,
we chopped down the trees, built houses,
grew vegetables and started
our family in this village. Today,
eight of my nine children still live
here in their own houses. I am glad
that they are all still living near me.”

Som Bte Awang Mat, 65
Kampung Jaya Gadin, Pahang



“I love acting for the sake of acting. I get a natural high when I am on a set. It is not a popularity contest for me. I just want to be whom I am, doing the things I love. It is all part of life, my journey.”

Deanna Yusoff

Actress
Kuala Lumpur





“I don’t ask for much – just that I am healthy and can still work. I have three grandchildren who are the loves of my life.”

S. Arumugam, 72

Security guard
Kuala Lumpur



“I have one daughter from my previous marriage. I am now divorced. My daughter is like my friend to me. But I do wish that I had given her a sister so she is not so lonely. Life’s not so bad, you know. God is kind enough for all my good years. In 10 years time, I hope I am still healthy, still standing here.”

Farah Suhana Ahmad Sarji, 42

Lawyer
Kuala Lumpur



“I’m studying for my Masters in Communications now. It is something that I’m proud of doing because I always believe in extending your knowledge and challenging yourself further each time to see how far you can go. That’s what I am grateful for; the fact that I can have these opportunities to do so.”

Nik Aida N. Mahamed, 33

Malaysia Airlines stewardess
Kuala Lumpur



“I spent the last 20 years repairing clocks and watches. My father owned this shop and taught me how to do it. My happiest moment is when I can dismantle an antique clock, repair it and make it work like new. That’s just great.”

Chan Kin Wah, 50
Clock repairman
Melaka



“The first thing I think about when I wake up is God and especially how He gave life to live fully for Him. What makes me happy is spiritual good, which is as important as the air we breathe or the physical food we consume. Spiritual food feeds my soul, it quenches my thirst for life and gives me profound joy. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for giving me a life full of joy that emanates an abundance of love. To be able to love unconditionally is the true Signature of Jesus.”

Tan Sri (Dr) Francis Yeoh
Managing director, YTL
Kuala Lumpur



“Success? Depends on what you mean by success. For me, I’m successful because I’m happy and I love. Most of all I am loved. I am successful because I do the things I love doing most. I am grateful because there is life, and because I am alive. That there is so much to experience in this life. I once read this on a fridge magnet: “It is when it’s darkest that you see the stars!”

Ida Mariana

Jazz vocalist/Theatre actress
Kuala Lumpur