



ALL FEATURE

From Merdeka 2077: Forging Malaysia’s Civilizational Destiny

👤 Guest Submission 📅 August 28, 2025

By, **Abdulwahed Jalal Nori**

On 31st August 2025, Malaysia celebrates its 68th year of independence. Each year, the proclamation of Merdeka reverberates across the land, recalling that decisive moment in 1957 when the nation broke free from the yoke of colonial rule. Yet, Merdeka has never been about the past alone. It is a living covenant, a generational trust that demands reinterpretation in light of shifting times and unprecedented challenges. If 1957 marked the triumph of political sovereignty, then Merdeka 2025 must be understood as a springboard towards the next great horizon: shaping Malaysia not only as a free nation, but as a purposeful, visionary, and civilizational actor in a rapidly transforming world.

The first generation of Merdeka handed down a legacy of courage, sacrifice, and unity. But today’s generation finds itself on a different battlefield. The threats are no longer colonial armies, but the turbulence of globalization, technological disruption, climate collapse, demographic shifts, and the ideological contestation of values and identities. In this landscape, independence can no longer be a static symbol—it must evolve into a strategy for survival and renewal. Sovereignty today is not merely the absence of foreign domination; it is the freedom to imagine, the capacity to innovate, and the will to chart a course for the century ahead. That is why Merdeka 2025 carries a special gravity: it is not simply another anniversary, but a strategic juncture that can determine Malaysia’s trajectory for the next half-century.

At this critical juncture, the recently unveiled IUM Vision 2077: A New Hijrah of the Muslim Ummah of Malaysia emerges as a transformative document. Rooted in the intellectual legacy of the late Tan Sri Professor Mohd Kamal Hassan—scholar, thinker, and moral compass of the International Islamic University Malaysia—Vision 2077 reframes the meaning of independence itself. For Professor Kamal Hassan, Merdeka could never be fully celebrated unless tied to a higher horizon of justice, compassion, and balance. Independence divorced from civilizational purpose would risk becoming hollow; but independence anchored in Qur’an, Sunnah, and the intellectual tradition of Islam could elevate Malaysia into a model of moral leadership for humanity.

Vision 2077 provides this horizon. Unlike conventional development plans tethered to GDP growth, electoral cycles, or bureaucratic checklists, Vision 2077 imagines Malaysia in 2077 as a civilizational project—a nation whose institutions, economy, politics, education, and cultural life embody the ideals of Ummatan Wasaṭan (a community of balance and moderation) and Raḥmatan li’l-‘Alamin (a mercy to all creation). The document organizes its vision around clusters—politics and governance, leadership renewal, Shari’ah as a foundation for justice, just and accountable economy, ICT and da’wah, health and wellbeing, sustainable environments, Islamic unity, relations with non-Muslim communities, Islamic entertainment, and education transformation. Each cluster is not a silo but a mosaic piece, forming a picture of a Malaysia that leads not by power alone, but by ethical example and civilizational contribution.

The futurist significance of Vision 2077 is profound. It situates Malaysia within the coming Age of Multipolarity, where the decline of unipolar Western dominance gives space or emerging civilizations to define their own trajectories. By 2077, the global order will likely be shaped by technologies we can scarcely imagine today—artificial intelligence as planetary governance, biotechnology reconfiguring human identity, climate migration reshaping borders, and quantum economies altering trade and finance. In such a world, Malaysia cannot afford to drift reactively. It must proactively cultivate the intellectual, moral, and institutional resources to withstand shocks while projecting a values-based leadership model. Vision 2077 does precisely that: it arms the nation with a long-term compass in a world addicted to short-termism. But Vision 2077 is not merely an academic proposal—it is a national call to action. The Malaysian government should not relegate it to university shelves, but integrate it into national planning framework. Ministries and industries should realign their targets with Vision 2077’s clusters, ensuring coherence between policy and civilizational aspiration.

Education policy, for instance, must not only produce skilled workers but visionary leaders; economic planning must not only maximize growth but distribute wealth justly; governance must not only maintain stability but embody integrity and accountability. Equally, Merdeka 2025 reminds us that leadership cannot rest solely in government hands. Independence in 1957 was won by the people’s will, and its sustenance will also depend on the people’s buy-in. Vision 2077 will succeed only if every Malaysian—Muslim and non- Muslim, young and old, urban and rural—sees themselves as stakeholders in this project.

Civilizational renewal cannot be top-down; it requires a bottom-up embrace of the values of justice, moderation, and compassion. Looking ahead to 2077, when Malaysia will mark 120 years of independence, the question is not merely whether the nation will remain sovereign, but whether it will remain significant. Will Malaysia be a peripheral consumer in a world dominated by technological empires? Or will it rise as a thought-leader, a hub of moderation, and a source of ethical guidance in a fractured world? The answer lies in whether Malaysia today dares to anchor its destiny in a vision larger than itself.

Merdeka 2025 must therefore be proclaimed not as an echo of 1957 but as a pledge to the future: a pledge to carry forward the sacrifices of our forefathers, the intellectual depth of our scholars, and the aspirations of our children. Vision 2077 is the roadmap. The government must lead, the people must embrace, and together we must transform independence into greatness. Only then will Malaysia rise from being merely free, to becoming civilizationally indispensable—a nation whose independence is not just remembered, but reimagined, renewed, and realized for generations to come.

Abdulwahed Jalal Nori holds a PhD in Political Science and is Assistant Professor in the Department of Fundamental and Inter-Disciplinary Studies (FIDS) at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). His research interests include futures studies and political reform in the Islamic world. Email: wahed@iium.edu.my.***

Author Recent Posts



Guest Submission

Previous Integrated Design Project (MFGA 3300) Showcase Day by Manufacturing Engineering Students

Next Three Tournaments, One Spirit: IIUM Pagoh Debaters Blaze Through August Arenas

Search 🔍

RECENT POSTS

Spiritual Genocide, Muslim Youths and the Contribution of Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas

Sheikh Muhammad Nuruddin Lemu Engages with IIUM Community on Ijtihad, Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah, Legal Maxims and Critical Thinking

A Day of Honour: IIUM Pagoh Shines at IIUM Takrim Day 2025

Three Tournaments, One Spirit: IIUM Pagoh Debaters Blaze Through August Arenas

From Merdeka 2077: Forging Malaysia’s Civilizational Destiny

ARCHIVES

Select Month ▾

CATEGORIES

- Academicsians (320)
- All (10,424)
- Announcements (668)
- Arts (117)
- Book (54)
- Campus (1,791)
- Careers (116)
- Contest (18)
- Economy (53)
- Events (238)
- Events (1,748)
- Feature (206)
- Galleries (10)
- IIUMenulis (33)
- Inspire (926)
- Lifestyle (841)
- Local (448)
- Multimedia (16)
- new (26)
- News (2,268)
- NST (30,470)
- Opinion (635)
- Research (108)
- Sports (128)
- Student Life (770)
- Students (379)
- Technology (69)
- Travel (63)
- Videos (6)
- World (152)

Search 🔍

RECENT POSTS

Spiritual Genocide, Muslim Youths and the Contribution of Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas

Sheikh Muhammad Nuruddin Lemu Engages with IIUM Community on Ijtihad, Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah, Legal Maxims and Critical Thinking

A Day of Honour: IIUM Pagoh Shines at IIUM Takrim Day 2025

Three Tournaments, One Spirit: IIUM Pagoh Debaters Blaze Through August Arenas

From Merdeka 2077: Forging Malaysia’s Civilizational Destiny

RECENT COMMENTS

ARCHIVES

Select Month ▾

CATEGORIES

- Academicsians (320)
- All (10,424)
- Announcements (668)
- Arts (117)
- Book (54)
- Campus (1,791)
- Careers (116)
- Contest (18)
- Economy (53)
- Events (238)
- Events (1,748)
- Feature (206)
- Galleries (10)
- IIUMenulis (33)
- Inspire (926)
- Lifestyle (841)
- Local (448)
- Multimedia (16)
- new (26)
- News (2,268)
- NST (30,470)
- Opinion (635)
- Research (108)
- Sports (128)
- Student Life (770)
- Students (379)
- Technology (69)
- Travel (63)
- Videos (6)
- World (152)

META

Log in
Entries feed
Comments feed
WordPress.org



Campus

- Read All
- News
- Events
- Sports
- Announcements

Lifestyle

- Read All
- Arts
- Careers
- Inspire
- Student Life
- Technology
- Travel

Multimedia

- View All
- Galleries
- Videos
- About
- About
- Contact
- Organizational Chart