

Malaysians give cash to help government

3rd June, 2018



Malaysians have helped their government with its money problems. They gave nearly \$2 million to help the country with its national debt. Malaysia has a new party in power for the first time since the nation's

independence in 1957. The new government promised to fix the problems left by the previous government. One of these problems was the huge national debt. Malaysia's current leaders say the previous government lost a lot of money. They now want to put that right. The government has used a new way of raising money. They decided to ask for help by using crowdfunding. This means setting up a special page on the Internet to raise cash. People can give money to the page using their credit card.

The amount the government has raised so far is very small compared to its multi-billion-dollar debt. The \$2 million is just a drop in the ocean compared to the country's \$251 billion debt. This is about 80 per cent of Malaysia's economic output. However, Malaysia's finance minister Lim Guan Eng said it was important to let people try to help the country. He said: "The people voluntarily want to share their earnings with the government to help ease the burden." The idea came from a 27-year-old Malaysian lady who said she was, "very much in love with and proud" of her country. She set up a private fundraising effort that very quickly attracted interest from like-minded people who also wanted to help.

Sources: bbc.com / straitstimes.com / businessinsider.com

Writing

People should always give money to help their government. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / problems / debt / independence / huge / leaders / money / credit card / very small / drop / ocean / economic / output / finance / in love / proud / interest

True / False

- a) Malaysians have given \$20 million to their country to help its debt. T / F
- b) Malaysia got its independence in 1957. T / F
- c) The new government said the old government lost a lot of money. T / F
- d) The new government used a new way of raising money. T / F
- e) The government wants to drop the debt in the ocean. T / F
- f) Malaysia's debt is equal to 80% of its economic output. T / F
- g) The crowdfunding idea came from Malaysia's leader. T / F
- h) A 27-year-old woman said she wasn't proud of her country. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. helped | a. pledged |
| 2. problems | b. until now |
| 3. promised | c. get |
| 4. huge | d. attempt |
| 5. raise | e. enormous |
| 6. so far | f. assisted |
| 7. about | g. split |
| 8. share | h. income |
| 9. earnings | i. difficulties |
| 10. effort | j. around |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about crowdfunding?
- c) Is \$2 million "just a drop in the ocean"?
- d) What would you do with \$2 million?
- e) How much in love with your country are you?
- f) What makes you proud of your country?
- g) Who would you like to give money to?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Malaysia's government?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Malaysians have helped their government with | a. fix the problems |
| 2. the first time since the nation's | b. love |
| 3. The new government promised to | c. by using crowdfunding |
| 4. the huge national | d. fundraising effort |
| 5. They decided to ask for help | e. minded people |
| 6. just a drop | f. its money problems |
| 7. finance | g. debt |
| 8. very much in | h. minister |
| 9. She set up a private | i. independence in 1957 |
| 10. like- | j. in the ocean |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you do to help your government?
- Would you give your government money?
- What is a national debt?
- What do you think of debt?
- What problems does your government have?
- What money problems do you have?
- Have you ever lost money?
- What do you think of crowdfunding?

Spelling

- national dbte
- since the nation's dicenedpnee
- The new ngetrenmvo promised to fix the problems
- etcnurr leaders
- the eroipvus government
- setting up a pecisal page
- The muoant the government has raised
- just a drop in the ecoan
- 80% of Malaysia's noecimc output
- people uvaltlioly want to share
- porud of her country
- quickly attracted nreteist

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. a	4. e	5. c
6. b	7. j	8. g	9. h	10. d

Role Play

Role A – History

You think history is the biggest reason to be proud of your country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these (and why): culture, military or peacefulness.

Role B – Culture

You think culture is the biggest reason to be proud of your country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these (and why): history, military or peacefulness.

Role C – Military

You think military is the biggest reason to be proud of your country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these (and why): culture, history or peacefulness.

Role D – Peacefulness

You think peacefulness is the biggest reason to be proud of your country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these (and why): culture, military or history.

Speaking – Proud

Rank these with your partner. Put the things about your country you are most proud of at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| • Military | • History |
| • Economy | • People |
| • Sports teams | • Leaders |
| • Peacefulness | • Culture |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.