

## POSSIBLE QUESTIONS BY THE PRESS “WALK FOR PEACE 2008”

### 1. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE EVENT?

A. **AIM.** The event “Walk for Peace” is aimed to create awareness on the existence of the International Day of Peace that falls on 21 September each year.

**Note:** It coincides with the UN Resolution 55/282: International Day of Peace was adopted by the UN General Assembly at 111<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting on 7 September 2001 with the declaration *“that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day”*.

B. **OBJECTIVES.** The objectives are:

1. To create awareness that peace is one of the humanity’s most precious needs and it remains an elusive goal.
2. Remind us of our efforts to promote peace and well-being for all people everywhere.
3. Pledge to do more, wherever we are in, whatever way we can, to make everyday a day of peace.

### 2. WHO IS THE ORGANIZER OF THIS EVENT ?

A. The event is organized by the **Malaysian Armed Forces Veterans Council** and is headed by **Maj Gen Dato’ Hj Khairuddin bin Hj Abu Bakar (Retired)** who is the President of the Royal Ordnance Corps Veteran Organization. ( See his resume attached).

B. The event is organized through the initiative of the Malaysian Armed Forces Veterans Council calling all Non-Governmental Organizations, Government Agencies, Corporate Agencies, Learning Institutions, Celebrities and Individuals to participate in this event.

**NOTE.** In view of the President of the World Veteran Federation who is a Malaysian, **Lt Col Datuk Abdul Hamid bin Ibrahim ( Retired )**, that through his initiative the event has been extended to all veteran organizations over the world.

C. **YAB Dato’ Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak**, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia is the **Patron of the event**.

### 3. **WHY WALK (FOR PEACE) ?**

#### A. **WHY IS THIS EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE MALAYSIAN ARMED FORCES VETERAN COUNCIL ?**

1. If we were to notice that World Veteran Federation Credo, ( Credo means any formal statement of beliefs, principles or opinions ) by Ralph Bunche it says,

*“None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in war. The voices of war veterans are the reflection of the longing for peace of people the world over, who within a generation have twice suffered the unspeakable catastrophe of world war. Humanity has earned the right to peace.*

*Without it, there can be no hope for the future. And without hope, man is lost.*

*The voices of the people must be heeded. They aspire to a richer life in freedom, equality and dignity, as in things material: they pray for peace. Their will for peace and a better life can be, must be, crystallized into an irresistible force against war, aggression and degradation.*

*The people have had to work and sacrifice for wars. They will work more willingly for peace. Let there be a dedicated effort, a greater crusade than history has ever known, for a world of peace, freedom and equality”.*

2. The late **Ralph Johnson Bunche** was the first African American to win the Noble Peace Prize 1950, and was the United Nations Undersecretary General who had devoted most of his work for peace.

3. Taking cognizance of the Credo by Ralph Bunche, it is deemed appropriate for the veterans of the Malaysian Armed Forces Veteran Council Malaysia to take the initiative to organize the event by virtue of their wars experiences to spread the words of goodwill to all humanity regardless of race, religion and background. **“Be united to build tomorrow’s Malaysia as the peace loving country”.**

#### B. **WHY WALK ( FOR PEACE ) ?**

1. This is a good question, why walk ? We feel that walk is the best thing to do where we can bring all organizations together regardless whether they belong to the government organizations, private institution like the NGOs, corporate sector, celebrities or for that matter the individuals who like to see peace and not war.

2. By having so we can achieve our objectives as I have mentioned earlier. The manner it will be done is through :

a. **The Rally.** This is where all participants can meet at a designated Rallying Point. This can be a form of solidarity to show to the public that we love peace. At a glance we are able to see the number of the organizations participated in the event.

b. **The Walk.** The participants will walk in procession from the Rallying Point to an Assembly Area. The Assembly Area may be located at a memorial, a place of worship act. The distance to be covered is entirely at the discretion of the organizers. It could be a symbolic walk of only a few hundred meters.

c. **The Ceremony.** The brief ceremony will be held at the Assembly Area :

(1) A message of Peace from the UN Secretary General is read.

(2) A one minute of silence is observed at 1200 hours local time.

(3) Local dignitaries deliver their messages.

**Note :** The programme may vary from place to place to suit local conditions, laws, customs and protocol.

#### **4. WHAT DO THE OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION DO ON SEPTEMBER 21 ?**

They will follow the same sequence that I have just mentioned earlier. This is done in accordance to letter sent out by the President of World Veterans Federation to all member associations of the World Veterans Federation dated 4 December 2007.

#### **5. CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT MAJLIS VETERAN ANGKATAN TENTERA MALAYSIA ?**

A. Majlis Veteran Angkatan Tentera Malaysia or the Malaysian Armed Forces Veteran Council was formed on **30 September 1999. Registration Number :1217.**

**Note :** The Council means a body of people elected or appointed to serve in an administrative, legislative or advisory capacity.

B. Objectives are :

1. To build esprit de corps amongst the veteran organizations in the Malaysian Armed Forces.
2. To support, assist and cooperate with MAFVC members to fight for the right of the Malaysian Armed Forces veterans.
3. To establish and maintain a good relationship with other establishments and institutions which support the good cause of the Malaysian Armed Forces veterans.
4. To act as the information center with regards to the welfare of the veterans of the Malaysian Armed Forces.
5. To provide welfare assistance to members of MAFVC and their families.
6. To maintain rapport with members of the Armed Forces veterans overseas.
7. To maintain the Malaysian Armed Forces cultures and traditions.
8. To carry out economic activities with the view that the profit gains from the activities to be used primarily for the benefit of the MAFVC.
9. To obtain loan from the financial institution, own and purchase land and buildings for use by MAFVC.

C. The MAFVC has it own logo, bearing **three colours**, light blue, red and dark blue to represent the Malaysian Armed Forces. The letter V is located at the center, on the the red colour, with the wording “MALAYSIA” at the bottom, on the dark blue colour. The motto is “**Sentiasa Bersatu**” or “**Togetherness At All Times**”.

**MVATM LOGO**



**MVATM FLAG**



D. The Malaysian Armed Forces Veteran Council are made of :

1. The Patron.( Yet to be named ). ]  
} will be formalized later.
2. The Advisor.( Yet to be named ). ]
3. Committee Members.( to be elected to office for the period of 3 years).
  - a. The President ]
  - b. The Deputy President ]
  - c. Secretary ]
  - d. Treasurer ]
- e. 10 x Members, through election process.
- f. 3 x Members appointed by the President.
- g. The President has the liberty to nominate the [Secretary](#) and [Treasurer](#) among the members appointed or elected.

**Note : The Council must be a Malaysian citizen.**

E. There are 4 types of memberships, namely :

1. **Ordinary Member.** It is open to all veteran organizations in the Malaysian Armed Forces registered under Society Act (1966)
2. **Affiliate Member.** It is open to all organizations registered under the Society Act (1966) who have supported the Council movement.
3. **Corporate Member.** It is open to all companies registered with Register of Companies and register of Business who have supported the Council movement.
4. **Honourary Member.** It is nominated by the Council Committee those establishments or institutions who contributed a great deal to the Council movement.

F. In Malaysia, we will be represented by 10 veteran organizations which are currently the members of our Council. We also expect other veteran organizations in the country to join us to celebrate this joyous, nostalgic and memorable event. The veteran organizations which I have mentioned can be from any organizations, name it, the celebrity organizations, Global Peace Festival, Aman Malaysia or for that matter it can be individual as well who support the work of peace.

1. The Malaysian Armed Forces Veteran Council ( Majlis Veteran Angkatan Tentera Malaysia )
2. The Royal Malay Regiment Officer's Club ( Kelab Pegawai Rejimen Askar Melayu Diraja )
3. The Ex-Services Association of Malaysia ( Persatuan Bekas Tentera Malaysia)
4. The Malaysian Intelligence Corps Veteran Club ( Kelab Veteran Kor Risik Malaysia)
5. The Ex-Malaysian Military Police Association ( Persatuan Bekas Polis Tentera Malaysia)
6. The Royal Ordnance Corps Veteran Organization ( Pertubuhan Veteran Kor Ordnans Diraja Malaysia)
7. The Ex-Personnel of The Malaysian Electriacal & Mechanical Engineer Corps Club ( Kelab Bekas Anggota Kor Jurutera Letrik dan Jentera Diraja)
8. The Malaysian Commando Veteran Club (Kelab Veteran Kommando Malaysia)
9. The Ex- Malaysian Armed Forces Teachers Association ( Persatuan Bekas Guru Angkatan Tentera Malaysia)
10. The Ex-British Army Club of Malaysia ( Kelab Bekas Tentera British Malaysia)

**Note :** More details can be obtained through our website : [www.mvatm.org](http://www.mvatm.org)

## **6. WHAT IS THE WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION ?**

A. **Description.** The World Veterans Federation (WVF) is an international non-governmental organization with consultative status with the United Nations .It is a federation of [some 175 veteran organizations](#) from [90 countries](#) representing between [25 to 30 million veterans worldwide](#).

B. **Formation.** The WVF was established in Paris, France in 1950. The founding members were veteran organizations from 8 countries ( Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Turkey, USA and Yugoslavia ). The original name of this organization was “The International Federation of War Veterans Organization”.

C. **Aim.** The aims of the WVF can be summarized as follows :

1. To promote well-being of veterans.
2. To promote international peace and security.

D. **Organization.** The organization of the WVF is composed of :

1. A General Assembly.
2. An Executive Board.
3. Regional Standing Committees
4. Standing Committee on Women.
5. A Financial Committee.

**Note : The international headquarters of the WVF is in Paris, France.**

E. **The Executive Board.** The Board is composed of :

1. The President
2. Five Vice-Presidents
3. The Treasurer General.
4. The Secretary General.

F. **Standing Committees.** Currently there are 5 Standing Committees :

1. The Standing Committees on African Affairs.
2. The Standing Committee on the Americas.
3. The Standing Committee on Asia and the Pacific.
4. The Standing Committee on Europe Affairs.
5. The Standing Committee on Women.

G. **Activities.** Some of the activities of the WVF are :

1. To hold meetings / conferences on matters related to the well-being of veterans eg ; on legislation, rehabilitation, etc.
2. To provide assistance to member organizations and individual veterans including their dependents.
3. To hold meetings / conferences on matters related to international peace and security.

7. **WHAT ARE THE 2 OBJECTIVES OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS ?**

That has been mentioned during the earlier discussion.

8. **WHAT IS THE EVENT GOING TO BE LIKE ? EXPLAIN THE AGENDA ?**

A. **VENUE FOR THE EVENT.** The event will take place at **Dewan Merdeka, Level 4, Putra World Trade Center, Kuala Lumpur on 21 September 2008.**

B. **PROGRAMME.** The programme is as follows :

1. 10.30 am Arrival of Guests
2. 11.00 am Arrival of YAB Dato' Seri Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak  
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia
3. 11.35 am Recital of Doa
4. 11.40 am Welcome Address by YBhg Maj Gen Dato' Hj Khairuddin bin Hj Abu Bakar ( Retired).  
Chairman of the Organizing Committee  
Veterans Walk for Peace
5. 11.45 am A Message of Peace from the UN Secretary General is read.
6. **12.00 pm A One Minute of Silence is Observed.**
7. 12.03 pm Keynote Address by YAB Dato' Seri Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak  
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia



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UM Police Cadets		400
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Polis Diraja Malaysia	]	
Persatuan Bekas Polis	} ---	
UN Peacekeeping Forces	]	
UN Association of Malaysia		-
Universal Peace Federation		-
Aman Malaysia		-
Perdana Global Peace Organization		-
Pertubuhan Seniman Malaysia		-
Yayasan Salam		200
Friends to Mankind		300
Majlis Musik Malaysia		200
The Malaysian Armed Forces		500
The Malaysian Indian Cultural Foundation		20
Persatuan Pengguna Islam Malaysia		20
Malaysian Civil Defence Department (MCDF)		35
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<b>JUMLAH</b>		<b>3144</b>