

### **Malay Transcript:**

Um.. Selain itu di sekolah-sekolah, um.. untuk pelajar perempuan mereka mempunyai dua pilihan - satu untuk memakai pakaian um.. pakaian sekolah [biasa]<sup>1</sup> mereka atau satu untuk memakai pakaian baju kurung<sup>2</sup>. Selain itu setiap sekolah juga mempunyai satu perayaan mereka tersendiri iaitu Hari Mufti<sup>3</sup>. Hari Mufti merupakan satu perayaan yang um.. yang merang.. merangkumi um.. semua pakaian-pakaian tradisional di Malaysia. Hari Mufti merupakan satu hari dalam kalendar kita yang memberi.. yang mebe.. yang membenarkan pelajar-pelajar di sekolah untuk memakai pakaian tradisional um.. memakai pakaian tradisional kita dan tidak memakai pakaian sekolah kita. Pada hari itu kita dapat melihat setiap pelajar di sekolah mereka memakai pakaian tradisional mereka tersendiri ataupun um..ah.. pakaian tradisional kaum lain. Pada hari itu kita um.. benar-benar dapat melihat semangat kekitaan dalam pelajar-pelajar Malaysia. Kita dapat melihat aspek bertolak ansur dalam pelajar-pelajar di Malaysia. Setiap orang di Malaysia, pelajar, diberi galakan untuk melibatkan diri dalam Hari Mufti kerana Hari Mufti memberi tujuan untuk memastikan kita dapat um.. cuba pakaian orang lain, pakaian kaum lain dan dapat um.. membina sesuatu.. um.. sesuatu semangat cinta terhadap kaum yang lain.

### **English Translation:**

Also, female students have two choices of attire – the first would be to wear their ordinary school uniforms<sup>4</sup> and the second, to wear the *baju kurung*<sup>5</sup>. In addition, every

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<sup>1</sup> Pakaian seragam biasa untuk pelajar wanita bukan Muslim di sekolah umum merupakan sehelai baju kemeja yang berwarna putih dan mempunyai kollar, bersama dengan sehelai baju pinafor yang sampai ke lutut dan berwarna biru gelap. Pelajar wanita bukan Muslim juga boleh memilih untuk memakai pakaian seragam bergaya baju kurung yang merupakan sehelai kemeja putih panjang dan sehelai skirt biru gelap yang sampai ke pergelangan kaki. Pelajar wanita Muslim biasanya memakai pakaian seragam bergaya baju kurung, namun terdapat juga pelajar Muslim yang memilih untuk memakai baju pinafor. Sebagai sebuah negara Muslim sederhana, Malaysia tidak mengimplementasikan peraturan pakaian yang tegas untuk warganegara wanita Muslim mereka.

<sup>2</sup> Baju kurung merupakan sepasang pakaian longgar yang mempunyai sehelai kemeja panjang dan sehelai skirt panjang. Istilah 'kurung' bermaksud untuk mengepung. Ini merujuk kepada pengaruh nilai-nilai Islam, seperti nilai kehormatan wanita, pada gaya pakaian tempatan.

<sup>3</sup> Di negara yang lain pula, Hari Mufti biasanya diraikan sebagai satu hari di mana pelajar-pelajar dibenarkan memakai pakaian kasual sekiranya mereka menyumbang sedikit kepada kempen memungut derma yang diadakan di sekolah mereka. Di Malaysia, konsep Hari Mufti telah diubah suai supaya perayaan ini dapat digunakan untuk menggalakkan sifat saling bertolak ansur antara kaum melalui pakaian tradisional.

<sup>4</sup> The standard Malaysian public school uniform for female non-Muslim students consists of a white, collared shirt and a dark blue knee-length pinafore. Female non-Muslim students can also choose to wear the *baju kurung* version of the uniform which consists of a long white tunic and an ankle-length dark blue skirt. Female Muslim students traditionally wear the *baju kurung* although some may choose to wear the pinafore. As a moderate Muslim nation, Malaysia does not implement a strict dress code for its female Muslim citizens.

school observes a day of celebration known as *Mufti Day*<sup>6</sup>. *Mufti Day* is held to celebrate the cultural diversity of the youth of Malaysia. The significance of *Mufti Day* for students is that it is a day during which they are allowed to wear clothes other than their school uniforms, like their traditional attire. During *Mufti Day* we are able to witness the representation from the different races in the form of students dressing up in their traditional outfits or better still, the outfits of other races. It is a day when students celebrate their ongoing tolerance for cultures other than their own. All Malaysian students are encouraged to participate in *Mufti Day* celebrations because its ultimate aim is to foster understanding between the different races through the medium of clothing and attire.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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<sup>5</sup> The *baju kurung* is a loose-fitting set of clothing consisting of a long tunic and a long skirt. The term '*kurung*' literally means to surround. This is a reference to the influence of Islamic values, like modesty of women's attire, on local clothing styles.

<sup>6</sup> In other countries, *Mufti Day* is usually celebrated as a day during which students are allowed to 'dress-down' or to wear casual clothes in lieu of their school uniforms for the price of a small donation to school fundraising efforts. In Malaysia, however, schools have modified the concept of *Mufti Day* in order to utilize it as a celebration of cultural diversity.