

Best New Stories Every Week

CREATIVE COMICS

Little Raj Learns about Earth:
Back in 2020

VISION 2020

AS PART OF CLASS
ASSIGNMENT FOR
ENE 3608 2020.
PRODUCED BY 4TH
YEAR CHEMICAL
ENGINEERING
STUDENTS.
IDEA DEVELOPED
AND INSPIRED BY
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FREE!
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ILLUSTRATORS



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JAG WYN



HARINDU

2050



THE YEAR IS 2050 AND THE WORLD HAS GONE THROUGH RAPID POPULATION GROWTH AND URBANIZATION. LAND RECLAMATION AND DEFORESTATION BROUGHT DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

ALONG THE COAST OF THE EAST MALAYSIA, LIVED LITTLE RAJ AND HIS GRANDPA. THE CURIOUS LITTLE CHILD WAS GIVEN A HOMEWORK ON AGRICULTURE AND HE HAS COME TO HIS GRANDPA, WHO WAS AN OLD FARMER FOR HELP

AH BOY, YOU HAVE STARTED TO ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS, LET ME TELL YOU A STORY.

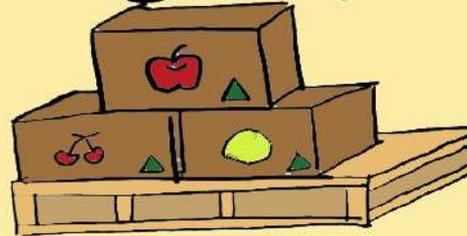


GRANDPA, WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GROW OUR OWN FOOD?



SARAWAK WAS A BEAUTIFUL STATE BACK IN THE 1990'S, WITH OIL PALM PLANTATIONS AND PADDY FIELDS STRETCHING ACRES. EVEN I USED TO WORK IN THE PLANTATIONS. OUR CULTURE WAS SO RICH; WE HAD AN ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL CALLED GAWAI DAYAK. THOSE WERE THE TIMES WE ORGANISED ANCIENT RITUALS AND PRACTICES WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

WE HAD A LOT OF AGRICULTURE BUT STILL WE WERE DEPENDING HEAVILY ON TRADE FROM OTHER SOURCES TO SATISFY OUR NEEDS.



AND SLOWLY, LIKE EVERYWHERE, PEOPLE GOT LAZY AND MOVED AWAY FROM AGRICULTURE. THEY BASICALLY WANTED TO ESCAPE FROM THE FARM LIFE, EARN MORE MONEY. SO, THEY STARTED RECLAIMING OUR VALUABLE LAND FOR CONSTRUCTIONS AND VENTURED INTO BUSINESSES AND INITIATIVES. PEOPLE DID EVERYTHING EXCEPT AGRICULTURE. AND NO ONE SAID ANYTHING.



GRANDPA, BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY RECLAIMING LAND?

OH, THAT IS WHEN WE TAKE UP SOME LAND AND USE IT UP FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

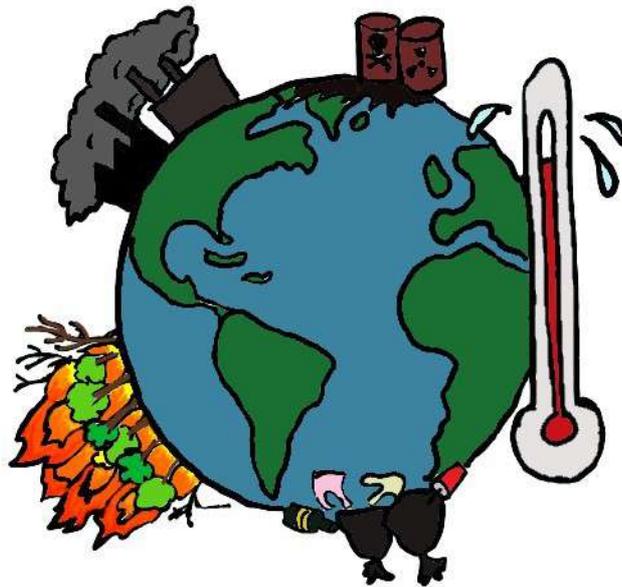




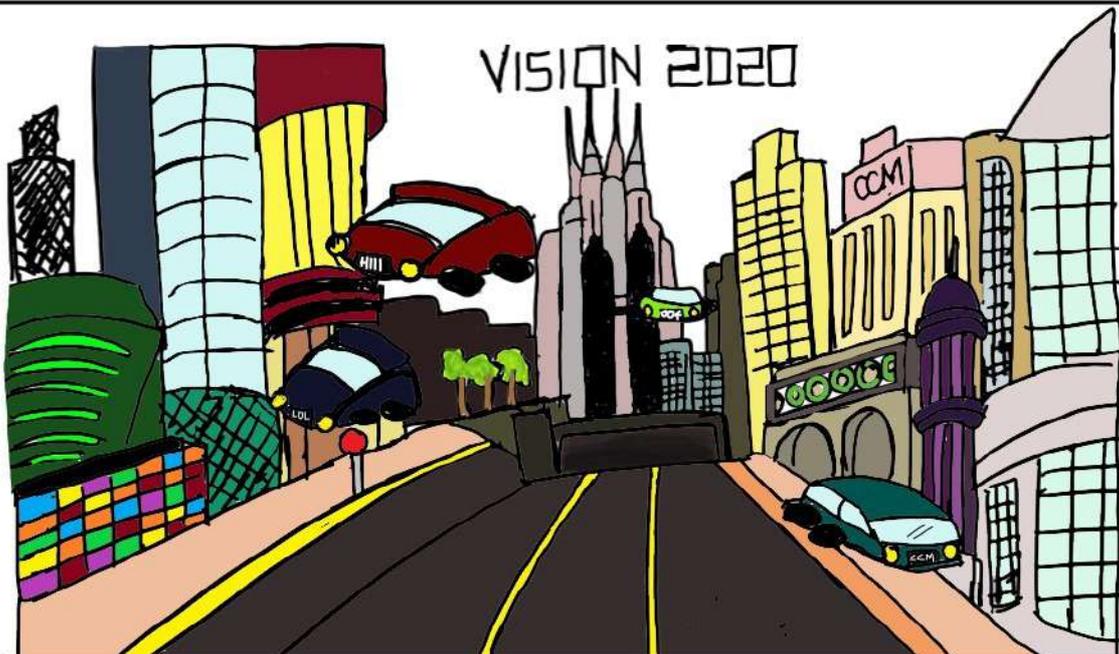
SO, ISN'T THAT GOOD?
NOW MORE PEOPLE HAVE
HOUSES? AND WON'T
THEY BE HAPPY?

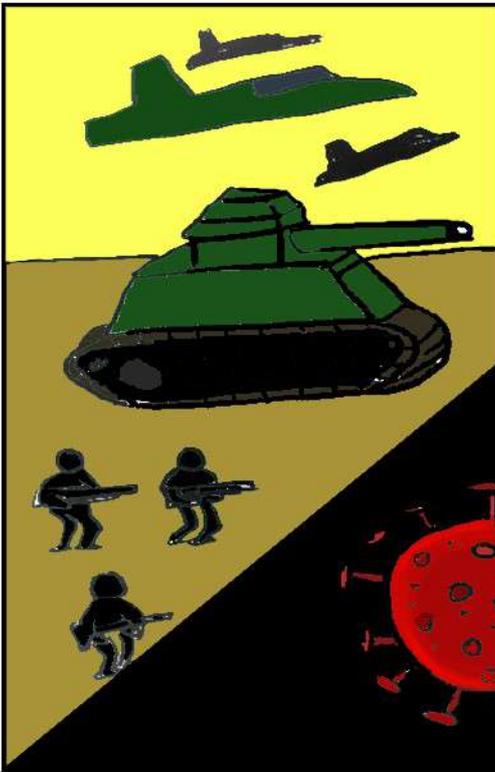
YES,
BUT THERE ARE OTHER
IMPORTANT THINGS ALSO.
WITH LESS AGRICULTURE OUR FOOD
PRODUCTION ALSO WENT DOWN.

ALSO THIS RESULTED IN
ENVIRONMENTAL
POLLUTION, GLOBAL
WARMING AND LOT OF
OTHER PROBLEMS. BUT ON
THE OUTSIDE, EVERYTHING
SEEMED NORMAL. EVERYONE
WAS HAPPY. POVERTY LEVEL
DROPPED.



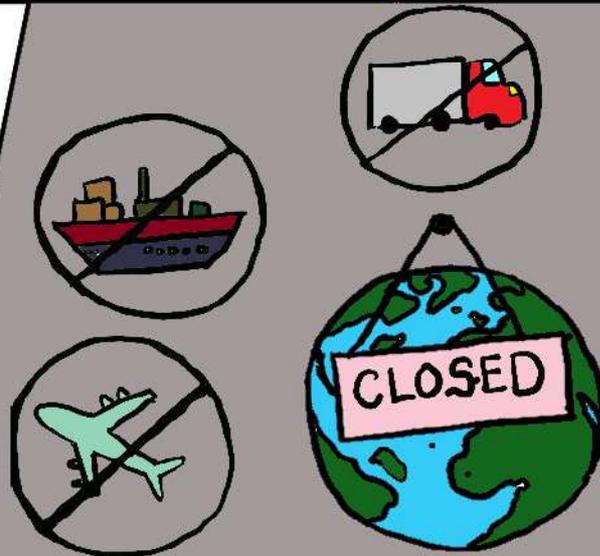
AND THEN CAME 2020. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST YEAR. GREAT PEOPLE
LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS YEAR SINCE THE 90'S. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS YEAR THE
WORLD WOULD BE CHANGED. IN MALAYSIA, WE WERE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO
VISION 2020.





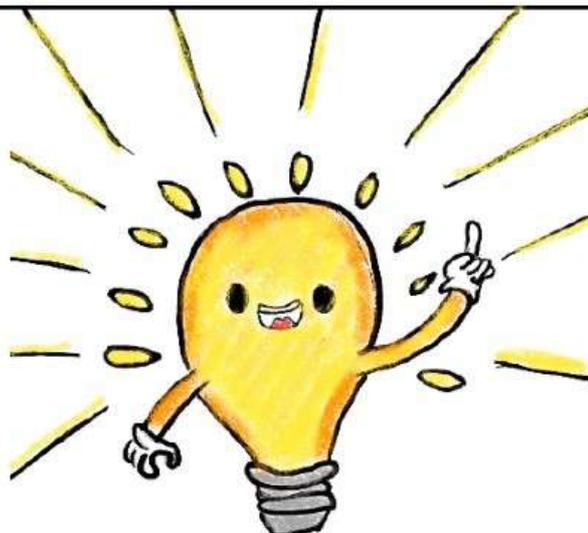
BUT, WE ALMOST HAD A WORLD WAR AND AUSTRALIA HAD WILDFIRES THAT LASTED WEEKS. AND IMPORTANTLY WE WERE HIT STRONGLY BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. SURELY, THE WORLD DID CHANGE FOREVER.

THOUSANDS DIED, MILLIONS WERE SICK, AND PEOPLE WERE QUARANTINED IN THEIR HOUSES FOR MONTHS. TRADE RELATIONS AND MAJOR ECONOMICS HAD BEEN DISRUPTED. BASICALLY THE EARTH WAS SHUT DOWN.



WITHOUT NO TRADE WE WERE STUCK WITH WHATEVER WE HAD. SLOWLY THE FOOD SUPPLY STARTED TO RUN OUT. THERE WERE DAYS WE JUST HAD WATER AND BREAD.

AND LIKE ALWAYS, FINALLY, IT DAWNED UPON US, ONLY IF WE HAD PUT EFFORT INTO AGRICULTURE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES, WE COULD HAVE HAD MORE FOOD AND FELT MORE SECURE. ONCE THE PANDEMIC SUBSIDED IN 2022, ALL GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING OURS PUT MORE FOCUS ON FOOD SECURITY SO THAT WE CAN PRODUCE OUR OWN FOOD AND BE SELF-SUFFICIENT.



SURELY, WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THEN. GOD FORBID IF SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPENS AGAIN WE CAN SURVIVE MUCH BETTER THIS TIME.



THANK YOU GRANDPA, LET'S GO PLANT SOME VEGGIES!

GLOSSARY

URBANIZATION

The process by which large numbers of people become permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities

LAND RECLAMATION

Process of creating new land from oceans, seas, riverbeds or lake beds making them more suitable for a more intensive use

DEFORESTATION

Clearing or thinning of large area of forests by humans for other uses

AGRICULTURE

The science, art or practice of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock with varying degrees in the preparation and marketing of the resulting products

TRADE RELATIONS

A system of trading between two countries in which each country attempts to balance its trade with that of the other

VISION 2020

A long-term development plan of Malaysia to achieve the status of a self-sufficient, industrialized nation by the year 2020, encompasses all aspects of life including economic prosperity, social well-being, education, political stability, and psychological balance

COVID-19

Disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus discovered in the year 2019

PANDEMIC

An outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population

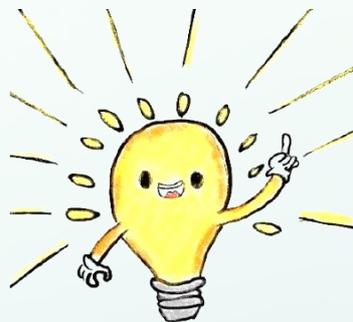
FOOD SECURITY

The state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food

SELF-SUFFICIENT

The ability to supply one's basic needs with little or no external help

IN THE DISTANT FUTURE, LAND RECLAMATION AND DEFORESTATION DUE TO THE WORLD GOING THROUGH RAPID POPULATION GROWTH HAD BROUGHT UPON RUIN TO THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS STORY IS ABOUT A CURIOUS LITTLE CHILD NAMED 'RAJ' AND HIS GRANDFATHER. LITTLE RAJ WANTED HELP WITH HIS HOMEWORK ON AGRICULTURE AND DECIDED TO ASK HIS GRANDFATHER. LUCKY FOR LITTLE RAJ, HIS GRANDFATHER USED TO BE A FARMER BACK IN THE DAY AND GOES OFF ON A TANGENT DESCRIBING HOW THE GOOD OLD DAYS IN SARAWAK USED TO BE. THE GRANDFATHER TELLS A TALE OF LAND RECLAMATION BEING WIDESPREAD UNTIL THE YEAR 2020 WHEN THE COVID-19 CRISIS OCCURRED AND HOW THAT MADE PEOPLE REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE.



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