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2017: Here & Now.

Dear Penfabricans,

At the beginning of this year, most of us were apprehensive of what 2017 might entail. We expected this year to be one of great turbulence with clashes in policies, economics and politics, here at home as well as on the world stage.

The unexpected Brexit happened in June 2016, ushering in a period of uncertainties and adjustments in Great Britain. This situation is expected to continue for some years before stability is restored, what more with the added risk of another independence vote by Scotland. Should Scotland decide to leave the union, then United Kingdom will become a kingdom with no unity. Across the pond, the underdog Donald Trump trumped the favourite Hillary Clinton to become the 45th President. Thenceforth, there has not been a dull moment in USA politics as well as those that revolve around the USA. The new kid on the block kicked up so much fuss all over the place that he turned days into nights, wrongs into rights. Presently, every one of us is getting uptight, holding our breath while waiting for the sky to fall.

Over in France, the recent election turned out to be an anticlimax as the far right did not get it right at all and was left forlorn. Closer to home, the sibling rivalry among Singapore's first family has turned their family spat into a national issue with international repercussions. On the domestic front, the 1MDB issues had become the focal point of our political playground and attracted enormous international interests.

Such are the present situations at home and abroad with important issues being sidelined while personal petty issues cornered the main stay of politics and economics. Businesses are being affected. How do we deal with the present situation is

anybody's wisdom. It is vital for all of us as citizens of the country and of the world, to keep ourselves informed even though there is nothing that we can do to help make the situation right. Knowledge is power. In our daily jobs, let us do whatever little we can to make this world a better place to live.

Dear Penfabricans, Sir Edmund Hillary has this to say about extraordinary things.

" People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things. "

Have a lovely Ramadan weekend. Stay cool amid the turmoil in the world.

To all Penfabricans who celebrate Ramadhan, Have a blessed, happy and forgiving Ramadan. Be safe on the road.

To all other Penfabricans, Happy Holidays. Have fun. Visit our Muslim friends to celebrate this joyous occasion. Stay safe while travelling.



Thank you,

With kind regards,
HSTeh.