

## *Worldly possessions do not satisfy internal needs*

**I** REFER to K.T. Maran's letter "Life: Promotions are nice but they don't soothe the soul" (NST, April 22).

Quenching the thirst of the soul by using external barometers is inappropriate.

Even if it's not for individuals, the need to be economically well-off is crucial to a developing country like ours.

For an individual to be econom-

ically sound simply means earning more and that is why people hunt for better jobs or work towards job promotions.

This phenomenon is compounded when the reflection of national development is the achievement of a high-income nation by 2020.

One may ask what justifies people's need for a job if working is not to satisfy the craving for the accumulation of material possession

and to satisfy sensuous pleasures — which are all external needs — through splurging monthly incomes?

This statement may offend many Malaysians who work hard for their money. What is wrong if the purchases are transacted by hard-earned money?

But the writer is simply referring to one of the three levels of a human as postulated by William

Tiller, namely, the spiritual, soul, and outer self.

What we have been doing all this while is trying to satisfy the need of the internal soul by economic accomplishments, i.e., using external "barometers".

It makes sense to satisfy an external need with an external stimulus, but to satisfy an internal need with worldly possessions is a misfit.

A more balanced remedy is to even out the needs of the internal soul. It is vital to differentiate between internal versus external needs. It is with this understanding that the equilibrium of the complete person can be achieved.

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