

MESSAGE BY MR. LEE KUAN YEW ON THE EVE OF POLL,

24TH APRIL, 1964.

Good government depends on the people's good judgement

Parliament democracy of the one-man one-vote will work only if people choose rationally from the alternatives they are offered in an election. The ideal is never offered. The voter is faced with a limited choice of alternatives. He must reconcile his hopes and aspirations with the parties offered him.

The democratic system breaks down if people make a choice which irrational, as they did time after time in France after the second world war until de Gualle swept aside the Fourth Republic. The system also fails if none of the parties contesting offers a rational choice, as in Indonesia between 1949 and 1959 until President Sukarno swept aside Parliament and installed himself as "guider" of democracy.

Rational choice

The rational choice for Malaya at present is a party which can hold the rural Malay mass base to build a Malaysia distinct and separate from Indonesia

and at the same time can work with a non-communal party representing the urban areas. Together they can implement economic and social policies which will make opportunities more equal and give fair shares to all according to their contribution to society

Can UMNO go on pretending MCA represent urban Chinese?

We have not contested in all the urban areas because it is not practical in the present situation. We may have been misunderstood as a challenge and an alternative to UMNO as the next government. We have a token number of candidates, but a token of considerable significance. If all the nine win, an agonising reappraisal will have to be made. In the heat of elections, it is said that even though there are only five MCA MPs left, UMNO will still carry the MCA that may well be. But can UMNO leaders go through the awful predicament of pretending for the next five years that these five MCA MPs really represent the urban Chinese? Five men who have won by UMNO's leave and licence in Malay rural areas?

Realities of life

The Tunku knows that good leadership is the reconciling of ideal solutions with the realities of life. If the urban areas constituting more than half the people of Malaya give their verdict for the winds of change, no leader can afford to ignore it.

There is a complete absence of hysteria in these elections because no one expects surprises to come out of the ballot boxes on 25th April, However, let us underline our resolve to defend Malaysia from perfidy and subversion. Out with the Socialist Front. The less votes they get the more secure our future, for the less opportunity there will be for mischief. A vote for them is a vote inciting the PKI, the Indonesian army and President Sukarno to stir up more trouble for us in Malaysia.

A new chapter in our history

The rational choice in these elections is to vote for UMNO in the rural areas, and vote for the PAP in the urban areas. Where there is no PAP, vote for other pro-Malaysia opposition parties. Where the choice is between only the MCA and the S.F. then out with the S.F. For whilst the MCA has been a bane on our society, the S.F. will be a blight on Malaysia.

With your votes counted on Saturday night, a new chapter opens in the history of our nation. If your choice is practical and realistic, we can make this new chapter one of achievement and progress.

24th April, 1964.