

GOVT TO GIVE PRIORITY TO

Dr. M. Monda.

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WE HAVE just formed a new administration and it is good if we stress our policies, including our foreign policy.

The Government headed by Umno will continue to give priority to Asean as a regional organisation even though the aim of an Asean common market has yet to be realised.

We will continue to work together with Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei and Singapore. Our relations with the Philippines will be decided after it has formulated its new constitution.

Singapore has requested our help over water supply. As a neighbour, we are prepared to consider its request. While we are aware of the importance of water to Singapore, we cannot set aside our own interests.

Our priority after Asean is the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC). We are interested in working together with the Islamic world even though the Islamic countries are not as rich as before and often

quarrel among themselves.

At the same time, there is now Arab nationalism which is so extremist that it has put Islam in the background. There are also Marxists or at least client states of communists and the United States.

There are also those that like to cause trouble in other Islamic nations and are even prepared to influence our internal politics.

We know all this but we still want to co-operate with Islamic nations and Muslims wherever they are.

Our third priority is the Non-Aligned Movement. We may not get any help from these countries but as a third force, they balance the competition between the Eastern and Western blocs.

As a small country, we do not want to side any particular bloc. On the other hand, we need friends who are on par with us and not big powers which view us only as a client State.

Among international organisations, we only sup-

port the United Nations and its various agencies. If we need to talk to the world, we will use the UN forum. Like the drug issue — we will take part in meetings sponsored by the UN in efforts to fight the drug menace because it is a problem not only to us but the world.

A detailed analysis will be made of the Commonwealth to find out what benefits we get from our membership in it and compare this with Britain's relations with non-Commonwealth countries.

There is a clear difference between white and non-white Commonwealth members and the details of this aspect must be known.

We also know that while students from Europe and the United States, who are not members of the Commonwealth, get special treatment, our students have to pay very high fees so much so that indirectly we are helping English students and others.

The Look East policy will be continued. The culture and morality of the Eastern

faces are more aligned with us. At the same time, the way they developed their countries has brought them plenty of riches and we don't want to copy people who have failed.

At present, many workers and executives from the West are going to Japan to study technical aspects of manufacturing and the work ethics there. It is clear that even the West is looking East and following our footsteps. There is no reason to reject the Look East policy.

DIGNITY OF RACE

People are prepared to fight until death because they do not like to be oppressed. Malays are the same when it comes to protecting dignity. If we fought for 400 years to free our country, it was because we were not prepared to be enslaved by anyone.

Today, direct colonisation is almost over. Many of you have never felt suppression as a colonised people. So, the gratitude to the free-

dom fighters is not very intense. This lack of awareness will make us careless, especially when indirect colonisation is carried out.

This indirect colonisation is being carried out through the economy and through culture. We practise free enterprise because it is a better system than the feudal one. We know that the economies of the nations cannot be separated one another. But we are not that free because the prices of our goods are determined by others.

Today, we are feeling the effects of this economic colonisation with the prices of our goods being suppressed and causing our economy to go down.

Cultural colonisation can be seen when we keep long hair, when we wear jeans even to weddings, we dance like madmen in rock concerts, when males wear earrings or deliberately wear dirty and torn clothes. Our customs and traditions have nearly vanished and we have almost lost our identity.

ASEAN, THEN THE ISLAMIC

ty. Not all imitations of foreign culture reflect cultural colonisation. There are some good practices which we should copy with our eyes open. Cultural colonisation occurs when we get so carried away with a foreign culture that we do not care about its negative effects.

We are also colonised through drugs. We do not produce drugs. This is not part of our culture. But today, the majority of those who smoke or inject drugs into themselves are Malay youths. They cannot defend our dignity.

On the mass media, at first only the foreign media brainwashed us. Little by little our values changed. Ultimately, there are our own journalists and newspapers who have been brainwashed. There is no more any need for foreign newspapers to subvert our values and culture. We ourselves have taken over this role.

Sometimes, those who

tarnish the nation's image are Malaysians. They do not care that they themselves will become victims of this smears. They are seemingly that objective. But the truth is that they are being made use of by colonialists.

The truth is that only Umno is capable of upholding the dignity of our race, the dignity of Malaysia and the dignity of our nation.

If we stress that Umno give top priority to unity and discipline, it is not because this will make the work of the leaders easier but because only unity and discipline can make our party effective, respected, qualified to lead and an example to others in Malaysia — whether Malays or non-Malays.

Unity, discipline and loyalty to the party ensures our victory in elections and the forming of an effective government.

Those who won in the election won because of discipline and the loyalty of members and leaders to the party. If we have received

some benefits from this quality, let us not — when we do not contest — forget the good deeds of others to us.

Let us not change direction, become impartial and seemingly objective when we do not need the party's support anymore.

Loyalty is not to gain a position. Loyalty is our trait in Umno, a trait which we will hold dear as long as we live because it is only this loyalty which has given us success.

So, continue to support Umno — especially during the elections — even if you are not contesting.

Whether the future is bright or dark for Malays and Muslims, Malaysians, the nation and other races depends on Umno.

Other parties are too extremist, chauvinistic or too small to protect this country and face the challenges. Umno is the binding force, the force that attracts all moderate parties so that we can work together.

This attitude is chosen by Umno itself. If not, this nation will be split like others with a multiracial population.

The democratic system by itself does not guarantee fairness and happiness. What really guarantees these two are sincere and honest practitioners of democracy. And Umno is a sincere and honest practitioner of democracy.

Our responsibility as Umno members is heavy. We must bear this responsibility and we must decide the stability and fairness for all the people in this country. We must always extend our hand in friendship.

At this time when the economy is declining, when money is hard to find and the Government itself faces financial problems, Umno members must show patience and be prepared to be careful with their money and property.

We cannot have the same lifestyle that we had during the good times. We must be

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prepared to accept the effects of the recession and we must alter our lifestyle to suit the present situation.

The unity of Muslims in this country was threatened during the recent election. We must try and restore this unity. Let us not continue with whatever misunderstandings or differences of opinion we had.

Together, let us make the Quran and the Sunnah our guide in life. We should be moderate and not extreme. We should trust in the moderation taught by Islam which has not only united Muslims but has helped spread the eminence of Islam. It can also enable us to work together with other races, even protect them.

We have shown the Government's determination to uphold the eminence of Islam through various projects and policies. I do not plan to list everything that has been done by the Government because everyone is aware of it.

We should be careful, though, because in this

country's political climate it is very easy for us to say or do something not because of religion but because we have been carried away by political calls.

Those who allow their political interests to influence their religious actions will deviate and probably lose their faith. So, everytime we act or suggest something, let us ask ourselves first whether this is instigated by religion or our feelings. Only by being sincere in answering this question ourselves can Islam be saved.

Umno's struggle continues. We still have a lot of work to do and many more objectives to meet. Thanks to the grace of Allah we have once been given the power to rule this beloved country of ours.

Let us renew our determination and our zeal, let us close ranks and firmly deal with the problems and obstacles that face us in our struggle to uphold the dignity of our race, religion and country.