

Towards peace, stability and prosperity

NST 13 OCT 1990

THE Barisan Nasional today outlined its efforts towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous Malaysia through a common manifesto for all its component parties.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Barisan Nasional chief, presented the manifesto which comes in Bahasa Malaysia, English, Mandarin, Tamil and Jawi.

He said the manifesto contains the same objectives and message for all communities, which have been living in peace and harmony over the years.

Following are the contents of the manifesto:

The objective

Malaysia is one of the most peaceful, stable and prosperous nations in the world despite being multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-religious.

As Malaysians we tend to take many things for granted:

- we are free and protected from all kinds of

tarian demands; and,

- by ensuring that the desire to win elections is motivated by a desire to serve.

The results of the Barisan Nasional's achievements have been appreciated by Malaysians and applauded by many foreigners.

Only the Barisan Nasional can ensure peace and stability in a multi-racial society. Only peace and stability can ensure that we continue with our momentum of growth and prosperity.

Democracy

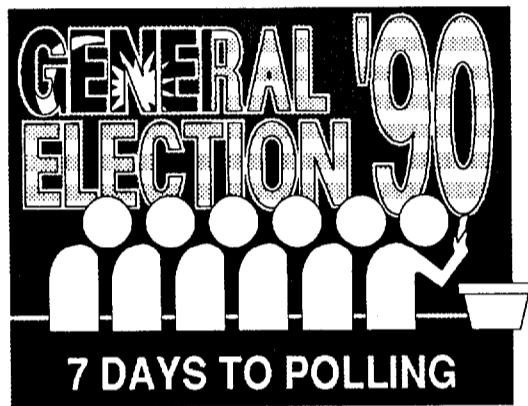
The Barisan Nasional has faithfully practised democracy and pledges to uphold all the following tenets of democracy:

- elections are fair and free;

- as a result the Opposition too can win elections and have formed State Governments;

- all Malaysians are free to express themselves as long as they do not instigate racial or religious conflicts;

- the media is free.



has been successful;

- the Government has reduced dependence on unstable commodity prices; and,

- exports of manufactured goods exceed the combined export of commodities.

To maintain this momentum of growth the Barisan Nasional Government will:

- continue the liberal growth policy into the next decade;

- ensure that Malaysia can withstand any future

vestors to other countries.

The Barisan Nasional will ensure greater employment opportunities through:

- new industries and growth centres spread throughout the country for balanced employment opportunities;

- promotion of tourism which has created more jobs and opportunities for small businessmen, especially with the 63 per cent growth in tourist arrivals in 1990 through Visit Malaysia Year;

oppression and threats;

- we enjoy ever better living standards; and,

- we are today amongst the top five of the 135 developing countries in terms of progress and achievements.

All these did not happen by accident. These have been possible through the stability and peace achieved by the Barisan Nasional, which the Malaysian people have elected repeatedly for 33 years.

Political

The most precious need of a nation is peace, stability and security because these are the essential ingredients for progress and prosperity. Under the Barisan Nasional Government the security forces have successfully effected the laying down of arms by communist insurgents.

The Barisan Nasional has proven that stability and racial harmony can be achieved:

- by ensuring that the component parties are moderated with similar ideas and strategies for nation building;

- by instilling a belief that disputes can be settled through sincere negotiations;

- by upholding national interests and negating sec-

There are today 40 newspapers and 160 magazines as well as foreign publications;

- the Judiciary is independent and has ruled against the Government in many instances;

- no person or institution in Malaysia is above the law and certainly not above the constitution;

- the administration is democratic, efficient, responsible and, above all, impartial; and,

- the Barisan Nasional is one of the most effective and stable coalitions of parties in the world. Malaysia is one of the best examples of democracy. Let us all pledge to continue to uphold this rare achievement.

Economic progress

All Malaysians can be proud of the economic progress we have achieved:

- we have recovered from the 1985-1986 recession;

- our nine per cent economic growth is one of the highest in the world today;

- investment proposals amount to \$23 billion in 1990, 300 per cent more than in 1987;

- the heavy and hi-tech industrialisation policy

world recession through a sound balance between the manufacturing and the commodity sectors;

- provide tax holidays, reduce taxes to make Malaysia an attractive investment centre;

- generate more jobs and better pay; and,

- with the Barisan Nasional, Malaysians will be assured of more employment opportunities, higher wages, reduced taxation and sound economic growth.

Employment opportunities

Generating employment is our top priority. The Barisan Nasional will strive to attain full employment as the nation progresses towards the 21st century. We have created a conducive climate for investment through political stability, innovative ideas, good infrastructure, and controllable inflation.

Wages will improve through higher skills and competition for workers with more job opportunities.

The Barisan Nasional believes in trade unions which protect workers and encourage job-creating investments. Industrial unrest only serves to drive in-

- encourage small businesses with financial and entrepreneurial assistance, for example, the \$50 million allocated in 1990 for petty traders; and,

- strict control of illegal immigrants so that Malaysians will not be deprived of employment opportunities.

This plan to stimulate economic growth for greater employment opportunities will continue with new ideas, strategies and projects to accelerate the process. The Barisan Nasional is no longer dealing with promises because we have kept all of them. We are now dealing with plans for our future generations.

Finance

Malaysia's financial position is strong and is poised for greater economic growth which will give us all a better quality of life:

- the value of the Malaysian ringgit is where it should be: competitive and attractive to foreign investors and tourists;

- taxes have been abolished or reduced, resulting in increased business opportunities and a greater spending power for all Malaysians;

- shopping in Malaysia is cheap and our range of

goods is amongst the wisest in the world;

- the business boom has increased Government revenue; and,

- prudent financial management has enabled us to prepay our debts and reduce debt servicing, which has released more money for development.

Financial management can only succeed with the Barisan Nasional's long term vision and an environment of peace, stability and progress.

Agriculture

The progress in our agricultural sector has been remarkable in spite of the growth in the manufacturing sector. The country is fortunate to have a truly hardworking farming population that can meet the challenges of worldwide price instability.

Agriculture will always be an important component of our economy with:

- increased research and development to improve yields and reduce costs to achieve higher incomes;

- crop diversification to reduce our dependence on current crops;

- overcoming shortage of labour through modernisation;

- implementation of modern techniques for fishing, farming and animal husbandry to increase efficiency and profitability;

- more efficient land use programmes; and,

- the Barisan Nasional is strongly dedicated to the above because we need to be more self-sufficient.

Rural development

The rural sector in Malaysia was neglected for almost 100 years by the colonial administration. First the Alliance and now the Barisan Nasional has embarked on a rural development programme that is unrivalled anywhere else in the world.

The Barisan Nasional Government will continue to develop the rural sector, including estates and new villages, and improve further the living standards of these people by providing:

- water, electricity, telephones;

- roads, bridges, highways;

- medical clinics, hospitals, schools;

- sports and recreational facilities; and,

- educational opportunities in both local and foreign universities.

Most of all, the Barisan Nasional Government will ensure that rural life remains attractive and lucrative.

Social

The Barisan Nasional has improved the quality of life of all Malaysians:

- poverty has been successfully reduced;

- eradication of poverty is implemented regardless of race; and,

- hunger is unknown in Malaysia.

Today more Malaysians are house owners especially the standard low-cost houses built by the Government and private developers.

The Government housing programme ensures that more people can afford houses. This commitment will be pursued further by:

- making available more housing loans;

- providing free housing to the very poor; and,

- a rehousing programme for estate workers.

Visitors admire the beauty and cleanliness of Malaysia. The Barisan Nasional will ensure that Malaysians live in a healthy, clean and more beautiful environment by:

- implementing the principle of sustainable development and applying strict pollution control measures;

- controlled logging and land development; and,

- further beautification of towns, cities, beaches, and the countryside.

Education

The road to development is through stability and unity. Development in the future lies in a more literate and skilled population inculcated with good values.

The Barisan Nasional education policy focuses on the following:

- every child is assured of the basic right of education;

- primary education is free;

- secondary education is available to all;

- textbooks are free to needy pupils in primary and secondary schools; and,

- increased university enrolment.

The Barisan Nasional's

blueprint on education emphasizes the following:

- to strengthen Bahasa Malaysia;

- English will be taught as a second language;

- Chinese and Tamil-medium schools will continue to exist in their present character. We give an absolute guarantee that there will be no change; and,

- computer literacy, technical and management skills will be taught to prepare students for life in an industrialised, modern society.

We have increased the literacy rate of our people from 45 per cent in 1975 to 75 per cent by 1990. By the year 2000 we expect to reach 100 per cent literacy.

In our pursuit of development the Barisan Nasional will ensure that:

- moral education will instil greater discipline and ethics;

- religious instruction will continue for Muslims;

- non-Muslims will not be forced to learn Islam; and,

- the cultures of the various communities will be perpetuated.

The Government's education policy will be geared towards developing a competent and competitive so-

Only the Barisan Nasional ensures peace and stability in our society. Only the Barisan Nasional ensures that we maintain the momentum of growth.

ciety well-endowed with a high sense of discipline, integrity and ethics.

The present progress of Malaysian society bears testimony to the quality of Malaysian education under the Barisan Nasional Government.

Health

Health is wealth. The Barisan Nasional has held this philosophy for 33 years. This is evident in more ways than one:

- Malaysians live longer today;

- child mortality has decreased;

- immunisation programmes are widespread;

- free medical treatment is available for the needy;

- health officers' visits to schools are frequent;

- clinics for expectant mothers are regular;

- early diagnosis and treatment of cancer, tuber-

culosis, kidney and heart ailments;

- improved sanitation, sewage and waste disposal networks; and,

- care for the elderly, disabled and handicapped.

The Barisan Nasional Government is dedicated to improving the health of the people further through:

- construction of new district hospitals costing more than \$2 billion;

- availability of specialist treatment in more medical centres;

- establishment of more rural health care centres;

- war against dadah and establishment of more rehabilitation centres; and,

- health education to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

In the 1990s, the Barisan Nasional Government will continue to subscribe to the principle that prevention is better than cure.

Religious freedom

Religious freedom is an important fact and facet of national unity. The Barisan Nasional Government will adhere strictly to the safe-

Nasional can ensure by in a multi-racial and Stability can continue with our th and prosperity.

guards on religious freedom:

- Islam is the official religion of Malaysia;

- freedom of worship of other religions is guaranteed by the constitution;

- no one will be forced to change his or her religion; and,

- the Government will not permit religious extremism and intolerance.

The Barisan Nasional Government is committed to uphold the individual and constitutional rights of all Malaysians with regard to the religions they profess.

National unity and integration

The Barisan Nasional Government places top priority on national unity and national integration as the overriding objective of all Government policies.

Racial harmony during the last two decades is the envy of many foreigners.

All citizens are equal before the law.

Strategies are being devised by the Barisan Nasional to make Malaysians even more united. In the 1990s national integration and national unity will be pursued further to eliminate all threats from inside or outside the country.

The Barisan Nasional appeals to all Malaysians not to take for granted the prevailing harmony we have achieved in a multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-religious society such as ours. Unity will always be an integral prerequisite for progress.

Administration

The Malaysian administrative machinery has a track record of achievements and successes which has been praised by the Commonwealth and the World Bank. The key objective is to provide quality services to the people through:

- an impartial, clean and efficient administration;

- deregulation and simplified procedures.

- courteous and friendly counter services;

- privatisation to improve the services and reduce the burden on the Government; and,

- Malaysia Incorporated for greater co-operation and understanding between the public and private sectors.

The Barisan Nasional Government is committed to improving the services needed by the people through:

- greater office automation;

- reducing red tape;

- better salaries; and,

- better training for improved productivity.

International affairs

Malaysia today is better known and participates more actively in international affairs.

We sit on the United Nations Security Council, chaired the Group of 77, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the Committee on the Future of the Commonwealth, the Group of 15 Developing Countries and many others.

While we are active in Asean, we also play a signi-

ficant role in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement and the International Conference on Drug Abuse. We initiated the South-South Commission and Antarctica as the heritage of mankind.

We have benefited from our active participation of world affairs. We now trade with more countries. We are less dependent on the limited trading partners we had before. Tourists now know Malaysia as a destination.

The Barisan Nasional Government will continue to play an active role in world affairs in order to gain for Malaysia and Malaysians economic and political benefits and to achieve stature for the nation. Our policy of neutrality and friendliness, with all nations will continue to enhance our independence and freedom to shape our own destiny.

Conclusion

Malaysia is richly endowed with both human and material resources. Under successive Barisan Nasional Governments these resources have been developed to achieve a prosperous and well-respected society.

It should be noted that a multi-racial, multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-cultural nation is not the easiest to govern.

Bigger nations with fewer problems have failed to develop their own vast resources.

Even in a homogeneous society no Government can make everyone happy.

But the world admires and acknowledges our successes and achievements in spite of our having many problems.

The Barisan Nasional has a track record and experience of governing Malaysia well. We have not only achieved peace, stability, progress and prosperity that we can truly be proud of, but also happiness for our people of all races. So let us make it better. Together we can take Malaysia to greater heights of national prosperity and happiness. Together we can do it, you and the Barisan Nasional.

A vote for Barisan Nasional is a vote for peace, stability and prosperity.

Do not gamble with your future.

Vote Barisan Nasional for continued peace, stability and prosperity.