

CNS3237

R ZE 05-08 00157 PB738

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(Attn Feature Eds: This is the first in the half dozen NATIONAL DAY SPECIAL series we will be sending out in the next 2-3 weeks).

BERNAMA FEATURE

NATIONAL DAY SPECIAL SERIES

Embargo: For use on or after Wednesday, Aug. 7)

JUDGE US TENDERLY

By Tai Sing Onn

DN 7.8.1991.

Malaysia is celebrating its 34th year of independence on the very last day of this month.

And the celebration this time around is very special to all 18.3 million Malaysians.

So it is timely to address this open letter from us in Malaysia to the world, to those who call themselves friends of Malaysia,

The 34th anniversary is special to us for a host of reasons.

For one, it marks the completion of a decade in office of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. -- more

♥05/08/11-05MST

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JUDGE US 2 BERNAMA FEATURE (embargo)

He has completed three 1,000 days in office and is well on the way to chalking up his fourth 1,000 days at the helm of government.

If he chooses to do nothing at all from now on, and this is inconceivable when you consider this protean, driven personality, he is already assured of a well-earned niche in the history of this young, vibrant nation.

He has given Malaysians a respected place in the world community of nations.

And earlier in the year as the head of the Barisan Nasional Government he had enunciated the concept of Vision 2020. -- more

♥05/08/11-06MST

CNS3240

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JUDGE US 3 BERNAMA FEATURE (embargo)

If you are talking about your eyes, Vision 2020 means perfect vision.

Malaysia's Vision 2020 is of the society we would like to see in the year 2020 three decades from now, a community of Bangsa Malaysia, a society as nearly perfect as possible.

The vision does not rest on myopic, mythical underpinnings but in solid social engineering and macro-economic planning.

It is a vision born out of the chaos of the May 1969 racial riots.

Out of this crucible of suffering and violence has come the NEW ECONOMIC POLICY and now the NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY.

Or as Swift puts it so well, +order from confusion sprung.+

Vision 2020 is thus a clear-eyed goal of the changes which we will be working on to bring about this perfect or near-perfect society. -- more

♥05/08/11-07MST

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JUDGE US 4 BERNAMA FEATURE (embargo)

Fragments of Dr. Mahathir's Vision 2020 still stay fresh in one's mind.

On Malaysia's aim: +Malaysia must aim to be...fully developed in terms of national unity and social cohesion, in terms of our economy, in terms of social justice, political stability, system of government, quality of life, social and spiritual values, national pride and confidence.+

On the challenges:+... the challenges of establishing a united Malaysian nation with a sense of common and shared destiny. This must be a nation at peace with itself, territorially and ethnically integrated, living in harmony and full and fair partnership, made up of one Bangsa Malaysia with political loyalty and dedication to the nation.+

And what is at the end of the rainbow, what will Malaysia be like in 2020?

The answer: +The Government envisions that by the year 2020, Malaysia will be a united nation with a confident Malaysian society, infused with strong moral and ethical values, living in a society that is democratic, liberal and tolerant, caring, economically just and equitable, progressive and prosperous, and in full possession of an economy that is competitive, dynamic, robust, resilient and socially just.+ -- more

♥05/08/11-10MST

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JUDGE US 5 BERNAMA FEATURE (embargo)

There, you have it. Malaysia's purposeful stride to 2020 and the type of society we would like to have.

While we go about this noble task of bringing about the type of country we would like Malaysia to become and the unified, +wholesome+, caring society we would like to see, surely it is not too much to ask for understanding from the developed North for us and other countries in the South which are at various stages of development.

The North should show a more liberal attitude in their macro-economic policies towards the South. -- more

♥05/08/11-11MST

CNS3243

R ZE 05-08 00116 PB743

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JUDGE US 6 BERNAMA FEATURE (embargo)

Even at the end of this decade when we move into the 21st Century, the world will be very, very different from what it is today, what with galloping technological advances.

If the North chooses to ignore the plight, the wants, the needs of the South, it will lose out in the long run because of wasted opportunities.

While Malaysia and other countries in the South go about the task of lifting their countries to a new plane of development in the 21st Century, the North should like the poet says +judge us tenderly.+ -- Bernama

♥05/08/11-11MST