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## Concerns of 10th general election

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ELECTIONS are rather like a process of renewal, as natural as the seasons or rains. Unlike in nature, human-run elections are prone to be manipulated. There is the rub. But we Malaysians have to take ourselves as we are. We cannot ask for more than we deserve. If we want more, we should do more. That is the inexorable law of nature.

Our 10th general election, due on Nov 29, is anxiously awaited by us and by friends and foes. This is because of the last minute expulsion from the Government and party of erstwhile Mahathir's successor, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Supporters of Anwar, internally and externally, claim that Anwar is the unjust victim of a high-level conspiracy to prevent him from reaching the pinnacle of power in Malaysia. They have mobilised forces, within and without, to reinstate him. In this light, this election is seen as a personal battle of influence between Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Anwar.

This perception of the current political situation in Malaysia, naive and simplistic as it is, has of course been carefully built and nurtured over the last few years by the foreign mainstream media, which is a tool of the world financial oligarchy, bent on killing nationalist Dr Mahathir and his growing influence in the Third World.

Politics is not about personalities. It is about policies and the policies pursued by Dr Mahathir and the Malaysian Government he leads is not to the liking of this powerful group of people.

Yet, only a while ago, this man, Anwar, whom they are supporting, was part of the same system and of the same policies. Why does Anwar, fallen, oppose what he, in power, acquiesced to? There must be something then regarding the personalities.

Dismiss the rubbish about Dr Mahathir being too old and being there too long. If that argument was valid, then Prophet Muhammad should have been prophet and should have led the city-state of Madinah for two terms only!

Dismiss also the rubbish about mega projects. It only reflects the brown man's inferiority complex - still colonised in the mind!

Dismiss also the Indonesian-inspired and West-derived anti-establishment slogans of the three againsts: of corruption, crony capitalism and nepotism. Our Opposition has lived up to its misguided calling of merely opposing!

The young are naturally idealistic - a very good thing to be, provided that they grow and learn to be realistic and wise.

Colonialism and imperialism thrive on realpolitik. We have reached a time when we should completely do away with them.

Yet it was some of our idealistic youths who called upon Iraq-bombarding Clinton to come to our help! They obviously do not know what they are saying. Whose fault is that? We, their parents, for not teaching them what is what? The Western imperialists for colonising their minds?

We have to see the picture in a global perspective, now that we are living in a borderless, globalised world.

The world is on the threshold of a cataclysmic change. Of that we should harbour no doubt. Consider the list of extraordinary events of the last 10 years alone.

The collapse of the communist superpower, the Soviet Union; an unprecedented 30-nation UN-sanctioned aggression against a Muslim country,

Iraq, with several Muslim countries participating in that aggression, followed by more than nine years of the most murderous sanctions and with no Muslim country daring to violate.

Then followed the Greater-Serbian aggression and ethnic-cleansing against Bosnia-Hertzegovina; genocide in Rwanda; currency attacks on Southeast Asian countries, resulting in pauperisation of Indonesia and the fall of the military-controlled Suharto regime in that country; the fall of the International Monetary Fund darling Anwar Ibrahim in our country and the consequent attacks of neo-colonialist powers and their internal allies, Pas, on Dr Mahathir.

There was also the US bailout of Long Term Credit Management amounting to trillions of dollars (a crony capitalistic act as any that one can imagine); the Sino-US crisis over Taiwan; North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's bombing of Yugoslavia on the pretext of that country's violations of human rights; the wars in the Caucasus, and repeated earthquakes in Turkey and Taiwan.

These are indeed extraordinary events. A prelude to great changes in the world.

"The Day when the earth will be changed into another earth, and the heavens too, and they will be brought before God, the One, the Supreme." (Quran, Ibrahim 14:48).

So, come Monday, Nov 29, more than nine million Malaysians will have a chance to choose a new government for the next five years.

Our choice is between the Umno-led 14-party coalition of Barisan Nasional, a coalition long-tested, with more-or-less a coherent nationalist policy and a far-sighted vision, to take us into the 21st century.

Offering us a different choice is the newly-formed disparate coalition of four opposition parties, the so-called Barisan Alternatif (Alternative Front), consisting of Pas, Parti Keadilan Nasional, DAP and PRM, ideologically bound together only by a common hatred of Dr Mahathir and the Barisan Nasional (National Front).

They lack a coherent policy. In fact, their policies are at loggerheads: Pas aiming to make Malaysia an ugly, drab so-called "Islamic" state, DAP wanting everybody to be equal in a utopian "Malaysian Malaysia", Keadilan to somehow reinstate their fallen neo-colonialist hero and darling, with socialistic PRM squeezed in between, seeking a space to breath in!

There is not much of an alternative!

I really wish there was a better alternative to the Umno-led BN. Apart from Dr Mahathir and a few other leaders, most Umno leaders, top down, are getting somewhat rusted and stale.

This situation must have provided fire to the reformist zeal of Anwar's followers, although Anwar himself did nothing to better the situation while he was able to.

That we need a strong nationalist government and leader to lead us into the 21st century world, still bedevilled and controlled by an obstinate, though fast-sinking, neo-colonialism, and to give us peace and progress, goes without saying. That means we have to return Dr Mahathir and his BN with a thumping victory.

That is where we Malaysians, as individuals and collectively, come in. Government is not just the affairs of a few people, although they represent us. Each one of us is responsible, every minute of our lives, to see that good is done and evil prevented.

This is a divine command to every believer and the violation of this command will bring us dire straits. There are many believers among us. We have to see that our society in the future is not only strong physically, but also mentally and morally.

The 21st century promises to be a time when only the morally and intellectually fit nations and peoples will survive.

Dr Mahathir and his BN have given us that beginning. We have to proceed on the journey, perfecting ourselves and our system as we go along. For our own posterity, we must succeed.

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