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Focus-BN (Last Of Two Parts)

CREATION OF BN COALITION BRINGS UNITY TO THE PEOPLE

By: Ahmad Fuad Yahya and Harlina Samson

(in conjunction with BN silver jubilee, Oct 24)

KUALA LUMPUR: The history of cooperation between the BN parties began when the country was still under colonial rule, when Umno and MCA entered into an electoral pact for the Kuala Lumpur Municipal Council election in 1952.

It then led to the birth of the Alliance when the MIC representing the Indian community joined the Alliance pact.

Mohamed said the Alliance then popularised the term "brothers and sisters" ("adik beradik") and the concept of mutual help ("tolong menolong") to foster cooperation among the three political parties and hence, the three races.

The cooperative spirit was threatened in a way after independence when the federal constitution provided for the right of association, leading to a rise in political parties based on race, religion and culture.

"Cracks began to appear because of the political freedom. The parties were more concerned with the struggle for themselves, not for the rakyat or nation, and the chasm between them, whether Malays, Chinese and Indians, became more pronounced and difficult," he said.

The overzealousness in politicking resulted in the May 13 riots because the opposition parties which had won more seats then, turned boastful and tried to weaken the Malays, he said.

An important political development after the 1969 election was the establishment of a coalition government initiated by Tun Razak in several states like Perak, Selangor and Pulau Pinang.

The front was well received not only by the political leaders but also the rakyat as a whole.

"The rakyat were confident that this is a party that could bring about stability, unite the people and bring Malaysia to more advancement and prosperity," Mohamed said.

BN which faced its first test as a party in the 1974 polls, won a rousing victory when it captured 135 out of 154 parliamentary seats, and it had from then won every successive election.

This political mould, based on power-sharing by the different races, is further entrenched with the creation of a united and loyal people, who are responsible to the nation through the five principles of the Rukun Negara.

The unity and solidarity of the people continue to be the top agenda of the successive leaders, the late Tun Hussein Onn (the 3rd prime minister) and now, Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir not only stresses on the unity of the people and political stability but also on industrial and economic development of the nation.

Dr Mahathir also brought several philosophies and ideas to the fore, among them are: Clean, Efficient and Trustworthy; Leadership by Example; Look East; Malaysia Inc. and Vision 2020, the latter to make Malaysia a developed nation in about 20 years' time.

"So, the (BN) party not only has its ideology but also policies and objectives which must be achieved. This is an important shift to create a Malaysia that is united, peaceful and progressive," said Mohamed.

He said the success of BN as a party and government is obvious because it has laid the foundation, and created, a "bangsa Malaysia", which is an important element to the new century.

"After 42 years of independence, we have created a "bangsa Malaysia",

because today people no longer say they are Malays, Chinese or Indians but they all say they are Malaysian people. They are proud to be Malaysian people," he said.

Mohamed said the silver jubilee celebration is not only to mark the 25th anniversary of the party that has administered the country for 42 years but also to celebrate the success of the people and nation in various fields.

Under Dr Mahathir's leadership, Malaysia and the rakyat not only have political independence but also economic independence, apart from social upliftment and advancement.

Although they are exposed to globalisation, the rakyat can be proud of the noble values found among the people of different races and religions while living in peace, harmony and prosperity.

The new century, he said, will bring with it all kind of challenges and obstacles which would require the younger generations to be prepared and imbued with a strong BN spirit when they take over the rein of power.

"Each component party must strengthen its youth and wanita wings. They must encourage the young people to join them so that they would know the struggle of the BN.

"The future of BN depends heavily on how far the younger Malaysians can accept the concept of power-sharing and to continue to practise it," Mohamed said.

He said the younger generations are free to politick and choose any political party but they must be smart enough to pick a party that can bring benefits and gurantee their future as well as that of the nation.

Leader of the BN youth wing, Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, said the BN is not just a political grouping but it is also a pact for solidarity, commitment and understanding of the different races and religions in the country.

"This cooperation and agreement is born out of the awareness that a multi-racial society must live in peace and harmony," he said.

Hishammuddin who followed the footsteps of his father, the late Tun Hussein and grandfather, Datuk Onn Jaafar, who founded Umno, said the main role of the present younger generations is to double their efforts to deepen their understanding of the BN political formula.

This process, he said, has to be a continuous and long-term so that they can inherit the BN spirit of cooperation and understanding to ensure the future of the nation.

"The BN formula must be defended in order to maintain the unity and advancement of the nation, and if needed, to streamline it in accordance with the times," he said. -- Bernama

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