

18 JUN 1999

Mahathir-excerpts

KUALA LUMPUR, July 18 (Bernama) -- Following are excerpts from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's presidential speech on the theme "National Unity Umno's Responsibility" at the opening of the 53rd Umno General Assembly here today:

#### THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE

+ If we wish to avoid recolonisation by foreign powers, we must realise that our independence and our freedom can be lost within a short period. When independence is lost, it is not easily restored.

#### MARKET FORCES AS THE DETERMINANT

+ According to the capitalist system, Rulers or Governments no longer have the right to control the movements of traders and entrepreneurs who are capitalists in a free market. Market forces determine everything. If something that they do does not benefit them, it is claimed that they on their own would self regulate or put a stop to it.

With that, all rules and laws regulating and controlling capitalist activities in their country would be abolished through deregulation advocated by them. This makes the successful and credible becoming richer, while destroying the weak and the small.

#### PROSPECTS OF RECOLONISATION

+ What we do not understand and realise is that the collapse of our borders exposes us to the prospects of recolonisation. Whether or not the former Western colonialists intend or plan to recolonise the territories which were freed in the middle of this century cannot be ascertained. They deny they had such intentions. But, after globalisation was accepted and borders torn down, newly independent countries, even those which were not colonised, were being indirectly colonised.

#### ECONOMIC WEAPONS TO WEAKEN US

+ The economic weapons of the Western powers, especially the ability to depreciate the value of currencies and shares, were certainly effective. They were able to use these weapons to weaken their targets until these countries were forced to submit to their wishes.

+ We believe no Malaysian is willing to surrender the management of the economy to foreigners. But, apparently there is a Malaysian, in fact our leader, who saw the economic turmoil as an opportunity to take over the Government.

#### FAILED ATTEMPT TO TOPPLE PARTY LEADERSHIP

+ We did not realise that the former Deputy Prime Minister, who was also the Finance Minister, had his own agenda. That was why when he implemented what was termed by the foreign media as virtual IMF, we did not question him nor did we obstruct the approach he was taking.

## NO CONSPIRACY TO OUST DATO SERI ANWAR

+ When he was ousted, Dato Seri Anwar began to undermine the country's stability. He hoped for the Malaysian Government to be toppled just as the Government in another country. The people were instigated to hold street demonstrations and riots.

+ This effort was clearly supported by foreigners and the foreign media including the leader of a certain country who made a speech here urging the people to riot ...

+ I did not victimise him, I did not conspire to stop him from becoming the UMNO President and Malaysian Prime Minister. His morals and behaviour prevented him from becoming UMNO President, in fact an UMNO member, although at that time he was my colleague and friend, but the interest of the Malays and nation prevented me from closing my eyes and allowing something bad to happen to the Malays and country.

## OPPOSITION PARTIES' FRAGILE PACT

+ The pact between PAS, DAP and a splinter group of UMNO is merely because of their respective self interest. There is no common struggle or objective in this pact other than self interest. Each plans to hoodwink the other.

+ It is said that PAS struggles for Islam and to establish an Islamic State. DAP fights for a 'Malaysian Malaysia' which they claim would not deny Malay and Bumiputera special privileges. But this explanation was only given when Malaysian Malaysia was condemned by Malays and UMNO. Is it possible that PAS' Islamic State is DAP's Malaysian Malaysia?

+ Parti Keadilan is established merely to fight for the freedom of Dato Seri Anwar. This party supports all policies, all forms of struggle including those of Non-Governmental Organisations, so long as they can gain support and weaken UMNO and Barisan Nasional. Justice for this party is only for Dato Seri Anwar's release.

## FOREIGN ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY UMNO

+ The foreign powers are very happy at the eagerness of the opposition parties and their affiliates to weaken UMNO, Barisan Nasional and the Malaysian Government.

+ What is important to these foreigners is to weaken UMNO. UMNO is the stumbling block. The strength of the Malaysian Government and Malaysia's firmness is because UMNO forms the backbone of the Malaysian Government with the strength that has successfully won the loyalty of other parties as components of Barisan Nasional. They are aware without a formidable UMNO, Barisan Nasional will not be stable and strong.

+ I am branded a dictator only because I refuse to bow to them (foreign forces). The real dictator is supported by them if he subscribes to their wishes or buys arms from them.

## UMNO DETERMINES CREDIBLE GOVERNMENT

+ Without UMNO, this country will be dominated, controlled by foreign powers and with that the opportunity to help the Malays and turn them into a successful, credible and respected race will be lost.

+ We waited 400 years to regain the power and opportunity to safeguard our destiny, improve ourselves until we are at par with other developed races of the world. Now we have that chance and let us not waste it due to

the accusations of a frustrated, immoral person who claims he was victimised.

+ Prospective colonialists and their puppets in Malaysia are still trying to weaken this country. UMNO is the only defence of a country's sovereignty. Malaysia can only be recolonised over UMNO's dead body.

#### ATTEMPTS TO SOW HATRED AGAINST THE PRESIDENT

+ Continued efforts are vigorously being carried out to sow hatred towards me so that this hatred will cause the Malays to reject UMNO.

#### BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT ...

+ Malaysia had been ruled by Malaysians for 42 years. Within that time Malaysia developed rapidly and emerged as the most developed among developing countries of the world. From a country unknown to foreigners we have transformed into a well-known country of which its support and help in the management of world affairs is sought.

#### ON PUTRAJAYA

+ Is Putrajaya a waste? It actually helps to save the Government's expenditure and ultimately it would help to contribute to the Government's coffers as with other big development projects carried out by the private sector.

+ The property value in Kuala Lumpur has increased so much that it no longer brings returns to the Government. The sale of property will help to pay for the development costs of Putrajaya. The increased value of land owned by the Government in Putrajaya, a growth centre with potentials, will help to pay the costs as well as generate profits to the Government when it is developed later on.

+ As a huge project, Putrajaya will be the catalyst of economic growth to the area and the country. Far from being a waste, Putrajaya is a big asset to the country.

+ Putrajaya is not only for today. It is for the nation's future, for Vision 2020, for the future generation, for a country which has matured and developed.

#### BE WARY OF POLITICS OF HATE

+ Opposition party politics are politics of hate. They spurn the heart and create hatred for the Barisan Nasional, UMNO, certain selected leaders so that with this hatred the people could no longer evaluate properly, and thus change, support and vote for them during the elections.

-- BERNAMA

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