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Malaysia proves critics wrong

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IT is certainly comforting news to know that efforts by Danamodal Nasional Bhd (Danamodal), set up six months ago to recapitalise banks and financial institutions, are bearing fruit. Even the recent extreme negative report on our banking sector by Moody's Investors Service fails to do disservice as it is apparently intended.

To put it simply, the report says that Malaysia's banking industry is about to go down the drain because we decided to be a non-conformist by applying capital and exchange rate controls to save our economy.

This is the mentality of the international capitalists. If you follow what they say then you will be the apple of their eyes but if you dare to be different you are castigated as an "international pariah".

This neo-imperialist attitude can be seen from the moment Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced to the world on Sept 1, 1998, Malaysia's own recipe to deal with the devastating economic crisis affecting the region. We are taunted and labelled as being an anti-free market and that our economy is doomed. It's like falling from being a blue chip counter to junk status!

While neighbouring countries run like headless chickens looking up to the International Monetary Fund as a saviour, we did the contrary. Looking back, it was a blessing.

Look at those countries who took the IMF aid now. Are they better off than they were before? Maybe the cash injection gave them some breathing space but there are now growing rejection of the so-called IMF "reforms".

For example, Thailand got RM65.4 billion from the IMF.

In exchange the country must implement economic reforms according to the terms and conditions set by the organisation.

Some 58 insolvent finance companies were forced to shut down.