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Let us heed the voice of the rakyat

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IT is with fear and trepidation that I pen this letter. Fear and trepidation at the callousness of those who put narrow self interest before the security and stability of the nation.

The general election is over and the people have spoken. They have elected to return the Barisan Nasional with a more than two-thirds majority and more than half of the popular votes.

Despite this, there are those who continue to be in a state of denial, trying to win through the back door by fomenting mass street demonstrations and riots, thus putting lives and property in jeopardy.

Adding fuel to the fire, they are using the mosque, a place of worship and a symbol of unity for Muslims, as a venue to spread lies, half-truths and hatred towards the government of the day that is elected by the majority of the people. This is done out of frustration because the people have rejected their brand of street demagoguery.

Why can they not accept and see the truth so evident in front of them? That the BN Government is a good Government with the people's interest at heart, that our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is a leader whose only concern is the welfare of this nation and its people.

Take for example the recent economic crisis caused by greedy international speculators. Malaysia, without having to surrender its sovereignty to the IMF, managed to beat the recession.

During the crisis local and international doomsayers predicted that without a change of leader and government as in other affected nations we would not be able to beat the crisis. We not only proved these know-it-alls wrong, but we also proved that actually their mouths were bigger than their brains.

Preceding the crisis, the same party won us our independence and initiated the development process for the past four decades.

The BN track record is clear for all to see. Many nations achieved their independence much earlier than us and had the same ingredients of nationhood as us, but became economically and democratically backward because of bad and irresponsible governance.

Have all these people who accuse our nation and Government of being rife with corruption honestly asked themselves why this is so?

We don't have people dying of hunger and most of our beggars are of international origin, not locals. In short, we suffer from the problems of success, not failure.

Then we wonder why some of us want to demonstrate and riot, causing uncertainty and giving fuel to the international media to derail our economic recovery.

The time for recriminations has passed. Let us together - the Government, Opposition and people - roll up our sleeves and do our part in this great adventure named Malaysia.

Let us not betray the people's trust in us. What is the benefit of having power if the nation is wrecked and in a mess?

Those who gained power through force will one day be overthrown by force, as history has shown us.

Those who want to overthrow the Government of the day claim they are the true democrats and reformists but their tactics smack of communism - a totalitarian system that gained power through violent revolutions and bloodshed.

This is compounded by the use of a place of worship of one community by all the other communities, not as a venue of inter-religious understanding, but to sow hatred within that particular community. This may lead to inter-religious strife that is dangerous in a pluralistic nation such as ours.

Please stop this, don't start what we cannot stop. If we are truly democrats and reformers who truly have the people's welfare at heart, hear the cries of the people as expressed through the ballot box.