

25/06/2001

Dr M: Important to obey the president

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad

FIRSTLY, I wish to thank the speakers from the States who took part in the debates. There were some who said that the assembly this time is subdued, supposedly not that exciting compared with those in previous years.

Of course, if you see it from one perspective, that of condemning the party, then it is a little quiet. But if from the perspective of condemning those who should be condemned, then the speeches made were full of life.

And I thank all, especially those who spoke in the debate on religion. I am so impressed with those who are fluent in the national language, Malay, Arabic and English.

I would like to remind those who are interested in becoming an Umno leader, the importance of mastering these three languages because we know that Muslim scholars long ago such as Ibnu Sina, Al Khawarizmi and others excelled in mathematics, astronomy and medicine, while deeply knowledgeable in religion. So whatever they said was accepted by followers of Islam.

I myself started late but I try to learn enough to know the extent to which Pas is prepared to lie and I have found that a lot of what Pas has been saying are indeed lies.

I would like to apologise to all Umno members for my ego. I say this because whenever a reference is made of "the beloved president," I kept saying that there was no need to praise the president.

Actually, the one being praised is not Dr Mahathir but the Umno president. The Umno president is the one to be praised and obeyed. Perhaps the second one is more important - obey the president - because when we obey his directive, then everything will be all right unless we chose the president because we get bribes as had been said just now.

That is why it is so important that we do not choose a leader who hands us donations. With this we can determine that the president is someone whom we obey. Obeying the president is important and wish to refer to the speech by the speaker from Kelantan.

The Kelantan speaker said delegates have the opportunity to make their choice only once in three years, but the president can make his every day. And this is true and indeed he knows this very well. When he lost in the contest for a seat in supreme council election, I appointed him to it. When he lost in the general election, I made him a Senator.

From the Senate, he became a Parliamentary Secretary. After two months, he was made Deputy Minister. That is the power of the Prime Minister, who is also party president. To him, it was indeed a suitable choice, a good one. But what he didn't know was when I choose him, many people complained.

Why choose this person, he is unsuitable, they said. My choice was not right. Aaah, this is the beginning of the problem. The president makes the wrong choice and it becomes a problem to our party. Never have I made a choice that was fully acceptable to everyone.

Usually when I choose a candidate for the elections, there are always people saying that the candidate is not suitable, he cannot win. Everybody is convinced he cannot win.

But why have I chosen him? I chose him because there were people who were convinced that he could win. That was why I chose him.

But there are people who say he cannot win. When he says the candidate cannot win, and to prove his point, he will try hard to ensure that the

candidate loses. Wah, when he finally loses, they will say - look the president doesn't know how to choose a candidate.

That's why we lose. Not because we are not strong. They say that we are strong, but the president has made the wrong choice. How could the candidate win? He was sabotaged. And if the person who sabotaged was chosen at first, then someone else would sabotage him.

This is our problem. From my experience for 10 years as liaison chief of a well-known State, this is our problem. I have never been able to choose candidates acceptable to everybody. When I choose someone else, he is thought to be unsuitable and when that is so, everything is done to ensure that he is defeated.

To lose is not hard. It is to win that is hard. To lose, the person not chosen to contest pull away strong supporters, say 100 or 200 of them. That is enough. And we will lose. This is why we lost. It's not because the opposition is strong.

I cannot imagine that a lot of people are convinced that the Pas struggle is an Islamic struggle. They have done so many things that are against the teachings of Islam.

How can there be so many people supporting these people? But because our own people sabotage, when they are not chosen, they and their friends will not give their support. What is worse is that sometimes they support the opposition party to ensure that the president has made the wrong choice. They support the opposition, and once again we lose.

On the other hand we see the opposition party. It is a party that will vote for a dead tree trunk. More than a dead tree trunk. Mat Sabu, an ulama, al-Ahmad bin Sabu, who was involved in a clear khalwat case. He was with another man's wife in a room and was witnessed by four people from the Religious Department, people who have not committed major sins. But he got away, how could he have got away?

That is the Islamic law of Pas. He got away after four people gave evidence. Not only is this type of person able to win, but win with more votes. You throw him in Kuala Kedah and he wins too. Why? Because this group is obsessed with their group. They are willing to support this kind of people.

Even Umno members who have just crossed over, who have just become Pas members, and then chosen as candidates, win. All kinds of people, if they are Pas candidates, win.

But in Umno, when this beloved president chooses a candidate, there are those who disagree with the choice. Because the choice is said to be not right, we cannot support. Not because our Umno spirit is not strong, it is ... Our spirit is strong but we cannot accept this person.

There was a time when Pas brought a shoe belonging to their candidate on a campaign. They took it everywhere around. And they won again.

I chose a human being, an Umno person who is well known. I chose him as a candidate, yet he lost. That is why if we want to ensure that our party wins, don't just love the president, obey the president's directives.

The president has no other interest than to give victory to the party, nothing else. I want to tell you that the person I chose as a candidate never gave me a single sen. Not just that, some of those I chose had opposed me in the past. Still I chose him. I don't have to mention who.

I don't discriminate as to who the person is, as long as they are from Umno, uphold the Umno spirit, fight for Umno, and although I may have been slighted sometime ago, and he may have opposed me, I may still choose him. The one who is slighted is Dr Mahathir, not the president of the party. The president cannot feel slighted.

I do not have any interest when I choose a person to be a candidate. I want us all to take a pledge so that every candidate that we have chosen

will not give rise to questions of their suitability.

(The delegates then gave him a resounding applause.)

Is this applause genuine? If this is true, please stand up. (The delegates rose to their feet.) Alhamdulillah. Alhamdulillah. Praise be to Allah. Thank You. Shukran. Alhamdulillah. If we have this spirit, in 2004, we make a clean sweep and we will recapture Terengganu and Kelantan.

There should not be any question (on the choice of candidate) because I have thought hard before deciding. He may not be good to one person but to others he is good. An evaluation has been made.

I want to ask that support be given to a candidate whether or not he is from among our beloved Umno or outside. If we put up a candidate, Chinese or Indian, and in the interest of Umno, since it is Umno who leads the Barisan Nasional, then we must help them to victory.

This is the true meaning of love for the president. If you love the president, then be loyal to the president and obey him. There is no need for whatever committee. When we say don't use money... then stop.

In any judgment, there will certainly be a feeling of unfairness among those who received the punishment. Look, if we have an army fighting in a war, there will be soldiers in the front line, and another line behind.

Surely those in front would feel victimised because in the event of a clash, they will be the first to be wounded and killed. But to win this fight we must have the front line. If those in front say that this is unfair and run to the far back, then the force will be doomed.

When he runs to the back, his force will be defeated and he will fall victim. This is because when the front line falls, the line behind takes over in front. This is the way to win.

In a judgment, we sometimes find that a punishment seems to be unfair. We cannot be convinced that all punishment in the world in any system will ensure justice. Sometimes there is injustice when a person is convicted of murder when he did not commit the crime, and sentenced to be hanged. This has happened in history.

We cannot be perfect. In the judicial system we cannot have an absolutely perfect system. There may be flaws. We give the opportunity to make appeals and so forth. But don't feel unhappy after an appeal has been made and the sentence upheld. We should accept that as our fate.

Everything that has to be done for justice has been done. We accept the decision because we love the party, party discipline, and the cleanliness of the party is important to us.

Because if other people's perception is that Umno is being led by people involved in corruption, those outside Umno will not give their support and vote to Umno and Umno's candidates.

Remember that we cannot win with 2.9 million Umno members. We need others to support us. There are those who are sympathetic. That is why we have to prove to them that we are a clean party, fighting purely for the race, religion and country. No other reason.

Believe me, when we are successful in getting rid of this bad practice, not only will we get a lot of support from non-Umno members, but there is a possibility that more people will join the party.

I am confident that next year, when Datuk Seri Najib (Razak) carries out his task to increase the Umno membership, we can get them easily because their perception is that this is a party that cares for their welfare.

I have made a long speech. I have taken a lot of time to write the (opening) speech. There were times I panicked because the inspiration didn't come.

I made 19 attempts to write the opening speech. It is quite difficult to get new ideas. But thank God, in the last minute it comes. And I hope my speech this time is understood by all.

Nevertheless, I feel that there are those who do not really understand the meaning (of my speech). I feel that the Malays have the same capabilities as the other ethnic groups. What has made us lag behind in education, the economy, and other fields is because we have not tried hard enough.

There is no reason why of the total enrolment in universities, 80 per cent are women and 20 per cent men. We don't believe men are stupid. Male students get poor results because they don't study. The school is the same, the classroom is the same, the teachers are the same, the facilities are the same, the books are the same.

Why are the results of male students so low? The reason is because they do not study, they do not study for many reasons and are sometimes quite lazy.

It is not difficult to study. Whatever we do, we can be clever if we do it repeatedly. That is human nature, God made it so. If we do something repeatedly, we will become good at it. If we don't do anything at all, we will not become good.

I believe many male students do not study and that's why they do not obtain good results. But one delegate said there is an easy way. Take eggs in the morning, he said. I am impressed with the Kedah speaker, but that one I cannot accept.

If just by eating eggs one can become brilliant then I would like to donate as many eggs as possible. When he said don't take nasi lemak in the morning, I thought he was about to suggest that students get up early to read. Insetad, he said get up early and eat eggs and don't take nasi lemak ... this is bad for the nasi lemak seller. He will lose out and we will not become clever either.

Actually, there are no short cuts... no easy way. We must study hard, get up in the morning and read books and read more. Of course, we perform the Subuh prayer, we don't forget that.

But don't mix with others... don't go listen to Pas politics. That will not help us achieve good grades, in fact it would not help us on religious matters either. When we get up, we read and study and do all the household chores.

I am confident that if at night we study, in the morning we study and whenever we have the time, like when we get home from school, we do not go to shopping complexes, many thousands of male students will get good grades and will make it to the universities. We do not have to depend on quotas.

The 55 (per cent) quota for Bumiputeras and 45 (per cent) for others is not so good. Actually, the quota means we only achieve 25 per cent if we include (the number of students) at both the public and private universities. We say it is easy. The easy way is through quota for private institutions. Private institutions will accept students because they just want the money. Private universities just want the money, the payment, they have no quotas. If the Malays, the Siamese, the Kazakhstans want to enter, they just need to pay. They don't care what the races are. They are willing to accept us.

But what is important are the results and if the results are very good, the Government is willing to give scholarships for them to enter both public and private universities, no matter how many the number of high achievers.

If their results are very high, why must we stop at just 55 (per cent quota) only? We can even give more than 55 (per cent). The problem now with male students, we have to bring down the level (of academic requirements) to a very low level so that they could fill up the 55 (per

cent quota). If we don't have a different level compared to the other races we would only achieve 25 per cent.

This means the quality of our children at the universities, although they are accepted, is low and that is why they cannot obtain first class honours. Is it difficult for our children to get 10As? Who says the Malays are stupid and cannot obtain 10As? I do not believe (this).

If you do not believe, I can show how we can study until we can master all kinds of knowledge but we must be willing to study hard day and night.

In those days, the Malays lived in the kampung and there were no electricity. It's all right if there were complaints then. Now there is electricity in the kampung, mothers too no longer chew betel leaves. Those days when you want to sit down and study, your mother will ask you to go and buy betel leaves, no more. Now mothers no longer chew betel leaves, they brush their teeth with Colgate. They no longer disturb their children, their children want to study, go ahead and study.

I am sure we can. This is the message I want to try to put across. There are no short cuts. We have to accept that in anything we do, we must not look for the easy way out. If we look for the easy way, we will fall flat on our faces.

In the field of economy, trade, business, the acquiring of knowledge, there are no short cuts. The Chinese are clever not because they are brilliant, but because they study.

Once, we introduced the abacus. And many people complained about the use of this Chinese calculator. I have seen for myself how it can solve a mathematical problem faster than using an electronic calculator. Children aged four cannot sit still, they jump here and there and when asked to calculate 12 times 12, they give the answer faster than using a calculator. That is why we said, why is it the Chinese can do it, why not the Malays? And there are Malay children who had learnt to use the sempoa and they could solve a mental arithmetic faster than other Malay children.

This means, we have potential... be confident that we can and work hard. All of us here have children, all Umno members have children, we have doctors and midwives and all have children.

We asked each couple to have five children, this is a must. Don't tell me that we can't. Hah... don't tell me we want to take in another wife. It is not the husband that is going to bear children, it is the wife. She can marry anyone and still get five children. Each time we marry another woman, we deprive another man of a wife. We don't want so many (wives).

That is the message that I want to convey. I had spoken for one hour and 57 minutes and my throat was about to come out. I have cried, pleaded, and appealed. I have done everything except to stand on my head.

In the 1999 general election, the DAP lost very badly. The DAP lost like never before. For the first time, (Lim) Kit Siang and Karpal Singh lost at the parliament and State levels.

What is the meaning of this? Because the Chinese rejected the DAP. Since the Chinese had rejected the DAP, today the DAP will do anything to win back the support of the Chinese and incite hatred among the Chinese so that they hate the Barisan Nasional, and especially the Prime Minister.

Whatever I say will be linked to the rights of the Chinese. As if there is such a thing as Chinese special rights. I cannot say anything. If I say something, it will become an issue and be blown out of proportion by the Chinese newspapers. To Chinese newspapers here, I want to tell them in the open to write accurately what I had said. Don't twist it!

When Sugiuh demanded that the Malay special privileges be abolished, the religion of Islam being made the same as any other religion and the other 83 demands, I made a speech over television and radio saying that their demands were similar to those made by the communists.

They immediately accused me of branding all Chinese as communists. They inflamed the feelings of the Chinese to oppose the Government, to hate the Government, and the Chinese newspaper, in particular the Nanyang Siang Pau and China Press had played up this issue so the Chinese would hate me and hate the Barisan Nasional.

They did this in the hope that they (the Chinese) will give back their support to the DAP, which also plays a role along with Suqiu and the Chinese school teachers in playing up the issue so that it will cause hatred towards me, and the Barisan Nasional.

When we moved the Damansara school to a new location, it became an issue and the Government was once again at the receiving end. Why should the relocation of the school which was supported by a majority of parents, but opposed by only 70 students give rise to the Government being accused of being cruel to the Chinese students. Are all these true?

Why did we propose the Vision Schools? It is because now there are new townships being built without a single Malay (living there).

The Chinese children in these new townships will not mix with the Malay and Indian children. And this is not good for racial unity in our country. That is why we proposed the Vision Schools and this was also made an issue, and blown out of proportion by the Chinese newspapers, Nanyang Siang Pau and China Press.

Actually, the existence of Chinese schools is only allowed in Malaysia. There are no Chinese schools in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, none in Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Australia, England, New Zealand, the United States and none in Canada.

They only exist in Malaysia and are even financed by the Government. There are mat sallehs from Australia attending this general assembly. They come here to look at us. Look then. Who is more fair? They or us?

Why don't they allow Chinese schools to be built in Australia as the Chinese population there is quite big? Why? Because they want all the people living in Australia to speak Strine? Strine is Australian English. They do not know how to say "the rain in Spain falls mainly in the plain". They say "the rine in Spine falls minely in the pline".

We Malays say "it's a good day, today". They say "it's a good die todie". All the Chinese who went and lived there have to learn to speak this Strine. When they come back here they still sound "it is a good die todie". Why? Why don't these people learn to speak English?

Of course, they have Chinese schools here which are being financed by the Government. They (in Australia) don't. They sound so democratic. So liberal. But in Malaysia, we are real. We give everything to the Chinese. This is actually a very liberal country.

Besides the problems we face, that many of us do not concentrate on our studies especially in fields that are important at this time, we are also faced with the Pas problem. To those in Pas they only see votes.

Even children in pre-school are taught to hate Umno, hate Umno leaders and not to study because it is secular. Learning mathematics is secular, learning Science is secular, all are lessons for the infidels. We as Muslims should learn about religion only, if we need to learn other fields, most of the time must be spent on religious talks which are actually not religious talk but Pas propaganda.

These people are obstacles to the progress of the Malays who are talented. They prevent the Malays from achieving success. I discovered after analysing the situation in other Muslim countries, why today Islamic countries are so backward and easily oppressed by other people and by the superpower. The reason is when a ruler or the government of a Muslim country tries to modernise their country, introducing knowledge that is considered important for the development of the country, a group will

emerge to oppose all efforts made as if such efforts are not Islamic.

I can still remember when I was small there was a heated debate on whether or not electric lights can be installed in mosques. It is haram to use electric lights. Corpses must be carried by people and not by vehicles with engines because engines are for the infidels, said the people of Kedah.

This was a subject of debate for months, years. Meanwhile, the West has mastered knowledge, has set up industries and we are left behind. Now if there are Muslim countries which try to develop their country, then groups bent on opposing to the extent of killing, murdering leaders who try to develop their country, will emerge.

We can see what is happening in Egypt, in Algeria and other Muslim countries that when efforts are made to modernise their country there will be people opposing it. They are prepared to kill if their interpretation of Islam is not followed. We know there is a mazhab (sect) who believe that it is their responsibility to kill other Muslims because other Muslims are considered un-Islamic. And to clean Islam, they need to kill Muslims who do not follow their interpretation.

These are the people who, in the end, give the word `assassin' in the English language, they kill fellow Muslims because they are said to be infidels. They make such accusations because they are against all efforts made by Umno to develop the country, to develop the Malays and Islam so that they can compete with other races.

They oppose as if Umno is secular and that it is made up of infidels. Going against the infidels is allowed. And we have seen there are groups who are prepared to steal weapons for the purpose of toppling the Government through violence. These are the implications from branding Umno members as infidels.

Taking the blood of Umno members is halal because they are without principles and do not follow the true teaching of Islam. We do not take this matter lightly, because they have certain objectives, the objective to brand Muslims in Umno as infidels. Today they have already started.

We have seen what happened when Al-Ma'unah started moving. Recently we have encountered people who obtained training in certain countries to create chaos to anyone whom they dislike.

This is the beginning. If we cannot prevent this it can spread and they will believe that killing Umno members is halal because Umno members are infidels. These people are the cause of Islam's slow development. When they see Muslims who are developed, then this group will accuse the Muslims of being infidels and should be killed and taking their blood considered halal.

This is why there is no developed Muslim country. We have become weak and easily suppressed. We see Muslims killed with impunity in Bosnia, Kosovo, Palestine, Iraq, Iran and several other Islamic countries. They were killed so easily by the enemies of Islam and sometimes even by fellow Muslims who believe that they, the others, are not Muslims.

In reality the traitors of Islam and Muslim countries are people such as Pas members. Pas has betrayed the Muslims. Betrayed the Muslim countries. The world had acknowledged Malaysia as a model Muslim country which served as an example to them all.

But Pas as traitors tried to deny the Islamic credentials of the Government. As if the Government is secular. Is the Government secular? Haji Hadi (Awang) had answered "because we use an administration system left by the colonials. We use the civil court not just the Syariah court. Because of this we are considered as secular". This is Haji Hadi's answer.

Are we secular because we use the existing system and the civil courts. Let me ask them whether they will abolish the civil court if they come to

power? Give me a true answer.

But if we read Harakah's English version, which of course is not meant for the village folks, English of course is for those who understand English. The Chinese lah! What is the answer given by Haji Hadi. There was an exclusive interview by Malaysiakini. And one of the questions asked was "If Terengganu were to become an Islamic state, could it be like another Afghanistan, Taliban or another Iran?". Will these be a model to Pas?

Haji Hadi had answered in English. He answered:

"The source and guide of an Islamic state is not Iran or Taliban. But based on the Quran and the Hadith. The environment of those countries are different from ours. The communities' characters are also different. We have to be aware of that. Furthermore, the population there is 100 per cent Muslim. But we have non-Muslims in Malaysia."

Oh! back then, they wanted an Islamic State? Want to have the hudud law and other things. We cannot care less for the Chinese and Indians. But now things are different. As there are non-Muslims, he wants to do what Umno had done. We still have the civil courts, they also want the civil courts.

When they become the Government there will be no civil court. After that, would the DAP support them. Ohh... they were ecstatic to get the DAP's support that they did not care what will happen. Want to take away the Malay privileges. They claim that the Quran said it can be taken.

They forget that the Malays are Muslims! The DAP is not Islam. Never mind this, everything allowed for now. The speakers had just now explained the truth on this. But Pas is willing to sell off what belongs to the Malays, just to win votes from the DAP and the Chinese.

If Suqiu says, make Islam the same as any other religion, abolish the Malay privileges, Pas will accept them! Pas will accept anything. This is as if when we want to go to China, we have to learn the Chinese language. There are no restrictions on anyone to learn the Chinese language. Who restricts? We do not restrict! But they want the Malay language to totally take the back seat. A lot of promises were made by them.

I asked for us to meet and discuss about Malay unity, huh... we do not want Malay unity, we want national unity. When national unity was mentioned, we can see they want the Chinese votes. That was Pas' intention. It does not matter if the Malays are destroyed, as long as they can get the Chinese votes.

If Suqiu can give its support then they (Pas) will also support Suqiu. Pas will also reciprocate if the Chinese School Teachers' Association lends support to the party.

They are willing to part with the Malay special privileges because they just want the votes of these people. This is because they want a place in this world and not in the Hereafter.

In their effort to tarnish the image of the Government, to show that the Government is anti-Chinese, they now link the MCA's purchase of Nanyang with me, as if I instructed the MCA to buy Nanyang Siang Pau and China Press. Why? So that the Chinese who are said to be so angry with the MCA for buying the newspapers, will also direct their anger at me and the Government.

And when they are angry with the Government, support the DAP. This is their intention. In order to gain the support of the Chinese, they deliberately link me and the Government with the purchase of Nanyang Siang Pau by the MCA.

I admitted that the MCA did ask me. Whether it can buy Nanyang Siang Pau and China Press? I said yes. No problem. But these people said the Chinese community does not want Chinese newspapers to be owned by any political party. As there are Malay newspapers controlled by political parties. Not only Harakah but also Utusan. Utusan shares are owned by Umno but

indirectly, like MCA which made the purchase through Huaren (Holdings Sdn Bhd). If we can buy Malay newspapers, why not MCA purchase Chinese dailies?

So Chinese newspapers must be free but in other words, Malay newspapers cannot. Is that privileges? To me, if MCA wants to buy, they can buy. There is nothing wrong with it. And if MCA wants to sell it, by all means do it. It's their right too.

Purportedly, the Chinese cannot allow the MCA to buy Chinese newspapers. Want to buy The Star, it's okay but not Chinese dailies. Why not? What's inside the Chinese newspapers. Are there things that we do not know?

Is it fair if we control Utusan so that it is not too extreme when dealing with racial tension between Malays and Chinese, but they do not do anything to stop their newspapers from raising feelings of hatred towards the Malays.

Can't these two newspapers be owned by a Chinese political party? It would be different if it is a Malay party. But we say this is a Chinese political party. They say Chinese political party does not act that way. Who says this? I don't see the MCA people saying this, the MCA is Chinese. The MCA is 100 per cent Chinese. (whereas) Umno has Chinese members. So it is the Chinese who want to buy, why can't they?

I am not campaigning for Liong Sik (MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik) but I am really disappointed with attempts to drag me in this Nanyang controversy. And they will try to incite the feelings of the Chinese to hate the Government.

I know they are not supported by everyone but they are capable (of doing this). Like in Lunas, they deliberately incited hatred of the Chinese against the Government. This was despite our recent victory in 1999 (general election) made possible with the strong support of the Chinese. But in Lunas we lost.

Why? It was because of the role played by Nanyang and China Press to create hatred among voters in Lunas towards the Government. They always give priority to the Opposition. Purportedly they wanted to be free. Their writers are also purportedly free but have never supported the Government. What kind of freedom is that?

I am asking these newspapers to stop playing up this issue. Don't try to involve me in this matter. The Chinese newspapers are independent as the other newspapers. But if you played up racial issues...

(DAP chairman Lim) Kit Siang on the one hand embraces Nanyang. On the other hand, he embraces Hadi (Pas deputy president Hadi Awang). Hadi also embraces Kit Siang. But he goes to the kampung, he talks about setting up an Islamic state.

They seem so obsessed with creating an Islamic state. But now even pig farming is allowed, everything is possible as long as they can get the votes, everything is for sale. They have cheated the Malays, now they want to cheat the Chinese.

I speak frankly. I reprimand the Malays, I also reprimand the Chinese. When I reprimand the Malays, Umno and other Malays who have gone out of line, the Malays do not say that Dr Mahathir is anti-Malay. But why when I made a speech criticising Suqiu, which is only a small group, the Chinese newspapers considered it was an attack on all Chinese. This is not true at all.

I have many Chinese friends. I admit even my daughter-in-law is a Chinese. I am not anti-Chinese. But I want justice for the Malays, for all Malaysians.

We cannot have one race which is free to hurl lies and accusations to run down the Government and another race which has to be reined in, to be restricted.

I try to explain our stand. I think what I have said is not my stand alone but that of the party. Every year we hold a general assembly, the most important and largest gathering of the party. Here we can meet and debate problems affecting the party, race, religion and country.

The general assembly is very important and among the speeches I make throughout the year, the most significant is my address to Umno. Every time I speak, I am able to convey a message to Umno for its own good, like an old man, I am old but not yet senile ... I spoke less than three hours, next year I promise I will speak for three hours.

I want to ask Umno members, the Malays that we need to know the problems as to why we failed, the weaknesses and we come up with a resolution, not for the Government to implement, for everyone to implement for their own self, what we need to do for the success of the race, religion and nation.

A lot has been done. If we don't work hard, we must work hard. There is no short cut. To get something we must work. If we fall, rise, fall, rise and we think that one day we can stand on par with other races.

Today, nothing happens without a reason when many representatives from other parties came to witness this occasion. They came because they were awed, awed with the leadership of the party. They praised Malaysia so much so that the Kedahan says puji sampai naik asap (showered with praises).

Do you know that in the evening (during the assembly), I met more than 20 delegates from many nations. They came to see me and wanted to know what they need to do so that they can become like Malaysia. They say thank you to us for helping them. In Bosnia, we sent our team with our own money to help them. We don't even know that there are Muslims there, and we sent our men and they say thank you.

In Sudan, the nation is so poor, the desert is so dry. Today, Petronas has produced 200,000 barrels a day and they came to say thank you. We did not expect Malaysia today can help others in need. Look at the Petronas people who have been rapped, they were willing to stay in the desert with these people in the south, willing to help Sudan so that today, Sudan has its own source of income and they say thank you.

We produced gas in Algeria, in the middle of the desert the Petronas people produced gas. They were awed with Malaysia and that was why they came and sought for help from Malaysia.

We have come so far ... can't we go any further? We want to realise Vision 2020, this means we must know how to do it. From our experience, we have planned so that Kuala Lumpur becomes a developed place. Kuala Lumpur has achieved a developed status and we want this to be distributed all over the nation and not in Kuala Lumpur alone.

When foreigners came, they say I am lying because Malaysia is already a developed nation. I said, Kuala Lumpur is developed but the villages are still backwards and that is the reason we still consider Malaysia a developing nation and not a developed nation, because our villages are still backwards.

Therefore, we have to work hard to acquire knowledge, including IT ... It is not difficult ... you don't need a cangkul (hoe), just press buttons with fingers. I want to appeal. I want Umno to become the pioneer to help Malays to prosper so that the Malays have the potential to become a successful race.

Since we became the Government, we became developed within 15 years until the Malays are able to design Proton ... we don't need to go to Japan. We did it all ourselves.

Petronas is not in the same league with the major oil companies in this country like Shell, Mobil, Esso, and the world regarded Petronas on par with them and that is why Petronas sent its representatives abroad.

In the world, only Petronas is able to go to 25 nations, we are capable

of exploring and producing oil, making pipes, tankers and can do business from Argentina to Australia ... we can do it. In the past we cannot but now we can if we work.

The spirit came from confidence in ourselves, work. We hold seminars, Takkan Melayu Hilang di Dunia and talk what are Malays good for. Malays who will not be forgotten are those who became masters of themselves, and we can do it. This is a very high achievement ... we can climb Everest ... not just those from the cold nations. This was the first time anyone from Asia succeeded in scaling Everest.

We can also do a lot of other products in Malaysia. Go and check what we have produced ... Don't be surprised that there is a microchip made in Malaysia by two companies, that is Sintera and First Silicon.

What more can I say ... we can do it but we have to work ... don't just eat eggs.

I want to tell you about my fate. My father was a teacher. I feared him so much that when I heard him cough over a distance, I would quickly rush to read my book. At 12 years of age, I was already using spectacles. Today, the youths also use spectacles but during those days when you wear spectacles, the feeling was different.

I was scared of my father although later he was nice to me. But during my school days, he was very strict, like my teacher ... not like the teachers of today when they cane a pupil, the parents will complain and make police report.

Master Hassan was my teacher. When he marked my papers, he had one hand marking the papers and the other ready to pinch me if I had a mistake ... one mistake, I will be punished with a cane, a ruler on my palm until my palm became sore. Otherwise, I will not learn.

In the past, there was no quota for Bumiputera. I was lucky to be able to study and become a doctor. There was no scholarship. Today, if scholarships were reduced, there would be problems ... some demonstrations. I was given an allowance of RM25 a month to pay all fees, but what can I do with RM25? I was called for an interview and they asked how much my father sent me. I told them RM15 ringgit and they deducted RM15 from my allowance ... I got no more than RM25. They deducted RM10 from my wife because she got RM10 from home.

Today, if you deduct, tomorrow you will get a lengthy letter. There will be demonstrations. There are also some students who employed servants who were paid salaries from their allowance. I will not mention where.

I want to appeal ... Umno is in the front in the struggle for the Malays and not Pas. Pas is a traitor, they cheat the Malays. We have examples. We want to show the Malays what they can do if we are highly disciplined and ready to work, and work, and work. We fall and we rise all because we want to ensure success for our race.

Malays are Muslims. The achievements of the Malays mean an achievement for Islam. Therefore, there are two reasons we have to work harder than other races because we struggle for the race and religion.

As the torchbearer that carries the struggle of the Malays, we must be willing to do everything to ensure the success of our race. I want to ask again ... be disciplined ... without discipline we will not win.

Look at the Arabs. They have no timing at all and have no respect for time. That is why if they fight with the Jews and plan for their attack at 9am, they would actually attack at 10am, some at 11am and at noon. Some even postponed the attack to the next day. How can they win. There was no discipline ... therefore, they often lose.

The Jews are not many ... about three million. The Arabs are many but they cannot fight the Jews. We must be disciplined ... it is important.

If we are disciplined and we will follow directives from the party

president and not Dr Mahathir.

I am not important and one day Pak Lah will become the president. Even if the directive is not right but if we all carry it out, Inshaallah, we will achieve success.