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For nation's continued progress

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BEFORE I table the Third Outline Perspective Plan (OPP3) for 2001-2010, I would like to draw the attention of the House to Malaysia's record of development since independence. As a multi-racial, multi-religious and economically divided nation, Malaysia was a nation least expected to remain peaceful and to develop.

There were dire predictions that racial conflicts would be a permanent feature and the Malays who made up the majority would seize power and rob the other communities. In the event we have proven our detractors totally wrong.

For this remarkable achievement the whole nation must thank the greatest Malaysian leader of all, the late Honourable Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj. It was he who devised the special inter-racial co-operation which today is being copied not only in this country but also many other developing countries with ethnic divides.

Without losing their racial identities, the various ethnic political parties were able to ride under the banner of an Alliance which functions more like a single party than a coalition of parties.

This is the formula which brought about stability and economic development in Malaysia. If Malaysia is to continue to be peaceful and to grow rapidly, it is important that the protagonists of this unique system of racial co-operation should stay in power. Synthetic copies are most unlikely to achieve the same results.

Unfortunately the original practitioners of racial co-operation are now faced with the politics of hatred, religious deviationism, racism and street violence. It is difficult to understand why people in a peaceful rapidly developing Malaysia should want to imitate the ways of countries which have not been able to stay peaceful and to develop.

But the fact is that some in Malaysia are not happy that the country is peaceful and the economy is doing well. They hanker after turmoil and violence, injury and death even. They are forever looking for issues and incidents to exploit. While they propound democracy, they are not prepared to accept the decision of the majority. They are not prepared to wait for general elections but wish to grab power illegitimately.

Recently a fight broke out between a few Malays and a few Indians. Immediately certain people tried to influence feelings among both communities in order to break the peace that Malaysia enjoys. It is well-known that certain individuals wish to see the Malaysian Government fall through street violence. They had intimated this to their foreign sympathisers. But this Government will not hesitate to enforce Malaysian laws even if we will be condemned by the foreign media and certain foreign quarters.

Malaysia's well-being is the responsibility of the Malaysian people and their elected Government. We have shown that when Malaysian interests are at stake, we are ready to break from the so-called international norm. We know that our critics and detractors are no angels and when it suits them, they will ignore common decency even. And so if the peace and stability of this country is threatened, having foreign friends to back their illegal acts will not save them from the full force of Malaysian laws. This Government will act and act decisively to protect this country from foreign manipulations and their proxies in this country.

As I pointed out, Malaysia has developed rapidly since independence.

This has been achieved despite continuous opposition and harassment by the opposition every step along the way. Every project to improve the living standard of the people has been condemned, opposed and obstructed.

Thus when the Government developed the Muda Irrigation Scheme (Mada) for padi double-cropping, the Opposition condemned it as impractical, the land is not allowed to lie fallow, the padi farmers would have to work throughout the year. Today the very people who opposed Mada not only enjoy the extra income they get but would get angry if they cannot do double cropping.

It is the same with all the other policies and projects. If their opposition is acceded to there would be no Penang Bridge, no North-South Expressway and other expressways, no Subang Airport and KLIA, no Proton, no DEB (New Economic Policy), no Malays in business, and certainly none in the corporate sector or the professions. In fact bereft of all these, Malaysia would be a Third World basket case, begging for aid and being forced to obey foreign powers and international agencies. We can see the kind of country we would be by looking around us.

Fortunately the Alliance and the Barisan Nasional Government were given overwhelming support by the people and we were able to ward off opposition from the opposition parties and develop the country and enrich the people.

The OPP3 outlines the policies and direction of Malaysia's development in the next 10 years. The National Vision Policy will be opposed by the Opposition because all the Opposition knows is to oppose. They have never come up with any constructive ideas to help the country develop.

The Barisan Nasional Malaysian Government will not be deterred by the negative attitude of the Opposition. We will definitely carry out the National Vision Policy with all the means in our power for the good of Malaysia and all Malaysians.

It is with this awareness that the Opposition will raise baseless criticisms during the debate on the Third Outline Perspective Plan and the National Vision Policy and will deliberately prevent Malaysia's development that I will present the OPP3, to take the country further towards Vision 2020, a Malaysia that is fully developed and at par with other developed countries.

I beg to move the following motion:

"That this House,

* recognising the significant progress made in the socio-economic development of the nation during the last 10 years under the Second Outline Perspective Plan 1991-2000 and the National Development Policy;

* acknowledging and endorsing the continuous efforts of the Government in implementing policies, strategies and programmes in order to achieve the objectives of the Second Outline Perspective Plan through the National Development Policy, that is to attain balanced development in order to establish a more united and equitable society;

* approves and endorses the Third Outline Perspective Plan, 2001-2010 and the National Vision Policy, which seek to provide respectively the development objectives of the nation and the policies that will be followed in this decade, as set out in Command Paper No. 11 of 2001;

* that in approving the Third Outline Perspective Plan and the National Vision Policy, all segments of Malaysian society are required to relentlessly strive for greater success in the face of increasing domestic and global challenges ahead, and stand united in our efforts to build a resilient and competitive nation."

With your permission, I, therefore, table the Third Outline Perspective Plan (OPP3) (2001-2010) and the National Vision Policy for deliberation by honourable members of this House.

The OPP3 document before us is of special significance for succeeding

generations and for us. It is tabled at the beginning of the 21st century and contains policies and programmes that will be implemented in the first decade of the century. Having attained remarkable success since the launching of the New Economic Policy (NEP) and the National Development Policy (NDP), we should forge ahead with determination to attain the objectives so that the rakyat who have placed their faith in this Government will not be disappointed.

In Malaysia, we take planning for national development very seriously. For us, plans are important to set out the course for the nation to take in its development. The seriousness with which we undertake development planning in Malaysia is best demonstrated by the efforts that are made in the preparation of OPP3.

In the formulation of OPP3, we established the Second National Economic Consultative Council (Mapen II), which was composed of 154 members representing various sections of the Malaysian society. Their ability to deliver the final report on time enabled the Government to consider the views expressed before formulating the plan. Although it was not possible to accept all the recommendations, the Government in full earnestness and sincerity had considered all the proposals carefully.