

Translation of Dr Mahathir's farewell pantun

STAR 22 JUN 2003

Poetry and prose grace the occasion
From the beginning to the end
Well done speakers on your critical views
Turning debates into poetic exchanges.

Regime change is the new theme
Poisonous slander, the enemy of the nation
Do not be taken in by the cajoling and appeal
Otherwise, the beloved land may be lost.

United we stand, divided we fall
An age-old maxim handed down
In a new millennium where intruders lurk
So, let's rally the race, defend the motherland.

After hundreds of years of colonial misery
The fruits of freedom we are now tasting
The refined ways of the European race
Are mere acts to trap a free nation.

For every beginning, there is an end
It serves to remind this servant
That power and positions are not all there is
But service is to the race and the nation.

Leaders will change, it's the traditional way
The traditions of Umno, steeped in culture

Leaders rise, replacing one after another
They will carry on the struggles of our race.

Twenty-two years of service
For the Faith, the Race and the Motherland
The time has come to leave
As Umno stands, tall and proud.

All will pray and shed their tears
Pondering the fortunes of the nation's children
Malay brethren, let's not squabble
Fend off the strife and chaos.

The Youth on the right, Puteri on the left
Flanking the Wanita, steady and graceful
Set aside self-importance
Put first the race, and the party.

Dear delegates and members
Prepare, all with one heart
I leave now and Pak Lah takes over
Umno remains strong, that's for sure.

Permit me to step aside
To give way to the young
But never to forget Umno
Still upholding the cause after I leave