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(PRIME MINISTER)

EVENT: SPEECH

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TIME:

We achieved our independence 25 years ago. In this 25 years period we have faced many challenges and experienced various changes. These changes have benefited the country and all its people. We have achieved success in many of various races and from all walk of life.

2. The confidence given by the people to the Alliance and the National Front is a wise decision. We do not only enjoy peace, harmony, stability and prosperity, but each one of us also, directly and indirectly, have benefited from these achievements. Here and there we can see land being cleared for development, people being resettled in new development areas, houses and buildings being built, roads and various modes of transport being improved and extended, various facilities like piped water, electricity, health centers, schools, places of worship and many others are built or provided. The living standards of the people of various groups, races and social strata have improved.

3. Today many of us, including those in the rural areas, can be proud of their own achievements. Our children and relatives have not only received education, but more than that they have received education in institutions of higher learning locally and overseas, including in countries such as Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United States and many National Front Government to ensure that democracy is upheld.

7. Besides our various achievements, we still have many things to attend to. We are still in the process of consolidating a strong foundation for justice and national unity. We are still in the process of restructuring our society eradicating poverty, and improving the quality of life of our people. We are still in the process of developing our country as a nation so as to be on equal standing with the developed countries, but with an equal emphasis on high spiritual and moral values together with material and physical progress.

8. The National Front accepts the reality that Malaysia is a multi-racial country. We hold in trust the responsibility of protecting the interest and welfare of everyone. In turn it is the role and responsibility of each one of us to collectively ensure a better and prosperous future for Malaysia.

9. We believe that the people who should inherit this country and continue with the struggle to achieve our national aspiration shall be the people who believe and uphold the Rukunegara. The National Front will ensure the position of Islam and at the same time will protect the freedom of worship for everyone.

10. We believe in being friends with everyone based on mutual respect. This principle is not only applicable to inter relationships within our society but also in the context of our relations with foreign nations. We will continue to give priority to our relationship with Asean countries and Islamic nations. Together with the other Muslim countries we will continue to seek appropriate solution to the problems faced by the Muslims and together with the developing countries we will strive to ensure a just system of international relations.

11. The National Front gives a high priority to it's responsibility to the people, to justice for all to share in the prosperity and opportunities that exist in this country and to moderation in all our actions. We will continue to uphold these principles in the interest of the people and the trust that is placed upon us.

12. Only a strong Government can champion the cause of the people and bring stability and prosperity to the country. It is not a strong opposition that can ensure a Government that is clean, efficient and trustworthy. On the other hand this can be achieved with the wise decision of the people in giving full confidence to the National Front because it is the people who will judge the National Front when it faces the people for a fresh mandate.

13. The National Front is a team. It's strength is not based on an individual, the ability of member or a leader. It's strength lies in it's team spirit. This is the basis for its unity and it's success. The National Front team consist of competent individuals who are capable of giving service and who represent the interest of various groups and social strata.

14. The National Front promises a Government which is clean, efficient and trustworthy. God willing with the support of the people we will fulfill this promise and God willing the people will benefit from this pledge.

Ladies and gentlemen

15. On the 22nd of April the people will once again have the honour to determine the destiny and future of this country. I am confident that you will use your voting rights with care and wisdom to ensure a safe and better future for us and the future of our children. I hope you will place your trust in the National Front.