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UCAPAN PERDANA MENTERI DAN PENGE-  
RUSI BARISAN NASIONAL, DI PEMBUKAAN  
RASMI PERSIDANGAN AGUNG LUAR BIASA  
PARTI GERAKAN RAKYAT MALAYSIA DI  
PUSAT PELBAGAIGUNA, IPOH, PERAK PADA  
27HB SEPTEMBER, 1975

Y.A.B. Dr. Lim Chong Eu, President Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia, Ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa, Dif-dif terhormat, Saudara-saudara sekalian.

Terlebih dahulu, suka saya mengucapkan terimakasih kepada saudara-saudara sekalian khasnya Y.A.B. Dr. Lim Chong Eu yang telah sudi menjemput saya untuk merasmikan Persidangan Agung Luar Biasa Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia, pagi ini.

Sebagaimana Parti saya UMNO dan Parti-parti lain dalam Barisan Nasional, inilah kali pertama saudara sekalian mengadakan Persidangan Agung semenjak kita mencapai kejayaan cemerlang dalam pilihanraya umum tahun lalu. Saya mengambil peluang ini mengucapkan tahniah kepada saudara-saudara atas inisiatif dan usaha menjayakan kedudukan Parti Kita, Barisan Nasional memegang tampuk pemerintahan negara ini.

Saya percaya kita semua tentu merasa bangga atas kejayaan yang telah kita capai itu dan ini juga membuktikan bahawa dengan menggabungkan parti-parti politik menjadi satu barisan yang kukuh, kita dapat melaksanakan segala rancangan kemajuan negara untuk memberi rakyat kehidupan yang lebih sempurna. Strateji ini dapat berjaya hasil dari pandangan jauh dan bijaksana pemimpin-pemimpin parti yang sama satu pendirian dan hasrat iaitu berkhidmat untuk rakyat.

Di sini suka saya merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada Y.A.B. Dr. Lim Chong Eu terutamanya dan lain-lain pemimpin yang telah berusaha mencapai perpaduan ini dengan jujur dan ikhlas serta membenamkan segala kepentingan siasah parti masing-masing untuk mencapai perpaduan yang sangat mustahak dan penting bagi kita sekalian. Semangat nasionalisma

serta pengorbanan yang ditunjukkan oleh para pemimpin politik merupakan satu batu tanda yang penting dalam kemajuan politik tanahair kita.

Saudara-saudara sekalian,

I would like to thank all of you especially your President, Dr. Lim Chong Eu, for the honour in inviting me here this morning. It is over a year since we met in Penang and this occasion is particularly significant being the first meeting of Gerakan members since our decisive victory at the national polls last year.

This meeting is also significant in that you will be able to make an appraisal of our efforts during the past year to meet the needs and expectations of our people who had given us their support and confidence.

I hope in your deliberations, you will bear in mind our Party Manifesto and that it is our firm determination to carry out that Manifesto, to pursue the path of progress and establish a just society for our people, despite the difficult times we are facing due to the current economic recession and renewed violence by Communist Terrorists and anti-national elements.

It is always a good thing at a Meeting like this to take stock of our position and the realities of the situation we are now facing. By doing this, we shall be able to pursue our ultimate objectives with greater determination and greater vigour.

Saudara-saudara sekalian,

Since we achieved Independence eighteen years ago, our young Nation had on three occasions to face threat to our survival. In 1957, almost the day we achieved Independence, we faced the challenge by the Communist Terrorists. Thanks to Allah, in less than three years, we were able to defeat them and drive the small remnants to the deep jungle on our borders with Thailand. Then in 1963, when we established Malaysia, we were faced with confrontation by the Soekarno regime of Indonesia. In 1969, we had the 13 May Tragedy which almost shook the very foundation of our nation. We were able to come through all these not

only unscathed but with renewed determination to strengthen the fabrics of our Nation, and the peace and harmony among our people.

After the May Tragedy of 1969, the leaders of various political parties who are loyal to the country and dedicated to the peace, stability and progress of our people have decided to join together to form the National Front. It was indeed a great act of faith and confidence in the future of our country. It was also an act of determination on their part to see that our young nation would continue to progress in peace and unity.

As a result of the formation of National Front and the agreement to have a common platform to face the General Elections in August last year, the people had given a decisive and massive support for the National Front and had shown clear and complete confidence in its leadership. It showed also that the majority of our people of various races who are loyal to this country and who desire peace and progress are solidly behind the present Government. They had made their choice in clear and unequivocal terms.

. Because of this, the Communist Terrorists and anti-national elements, realising the people's massive support for the Government, had to take some measures to renew their struggle; otherwise their struggle will completely be lost. They therefore decided to revive their acts of violence not only in the jungles and the fringes of villages but also in the urban areas. That is why recently there was an attempt to blow up the National Monument and the throwing of bombs at the Police Field Force Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

In the face of this renewed violence, the Government had decided to act firmly and to take adequate measures so that those responsible for these inhuman acts would be brought to book and would be dealt with severely. I have therefore directed the Police and the Military to be alert and take adequate security measures throughout the country. I have also alerted the State Governments to the seriousness of the situation.

We have now invoked the necessary provisions of the Internal Security Act to the whole country so that adequate punishments would be meted out to those responsible for these acts of violence.

Also last Wednesday, the Cabinet had approved new Regulations for conducting trials of these security cases to ensure that those responsible and guilty would be brought to book speedily and effectively.

With adequate legal backing, the Police and those responsible for maintaining law and order will now be able to carry out their duties without fear and flavour and we will be able to deal with these elements efficiently and effectively.

You are right, Dr. Lim, that Malaysia is now at a cross-road. Our people must decide whether they want to follow the path of unity, of peace and progress, or the path of violence, of racial animosity, of chaos and disorder. During the last General Elections, the decision of the people was clear and their decision now must be clear and unequivocal; that is, they will stand solidly behind the Government to achieve national unity and progress and to have a proper place in a fair and just Malaysian society.

In a situation like this, there is no place for fence-sitters. There is, of course, no place for those who harbour and assist the terrorists and anti-national elements. They will be treated in the same way like those who are now taking up arms against the Government.

I would like to give a clear and unequivocal assurance to the people that the Government will take whatever measures necessary and use all the powers at its command to destroy these anti-national and terrorist elements. They have shown to be ruthless and heartless and they therefore have no place in our society. But the people themselves must clearly show that they are against these elements and that they will not be subjected to threat or pressure and that they are prepared to make sacrifices for national survival as well as for peace, security and happiness of our people and our children in the years to come.

It is sad for me to see that there are still people in the villages and in the towns who are assisting these anti-national elements. I must therefore warn these people that unless they stop these activities, they will meet with the same fate as the terrorists and the anti-national elements. People who have no faith in the future

of their country and no will to stand up and fight against the enemies of the State have no right to have a place in the society. I have no doubt that as on the previous three occasions, we shall come through these present trials because we are defending the cause of the peace and stability of our country, the integrity and unity of our people against elements who are out to disrupt all that we stand for, and because I know that the majority of our people are against these elements and desire to live in peace and harmony.

As I had said on many occasions, in a democratic country such as ours, there is no reason for anyone to resort to violence. Government was elected by the people in a free and democratic election. People are free at all times to criticise the policies of the Government. There is complete freedom of speech. It is therefore not right for anyone who may be unhappy with any policy of the Government to support elements who are out to destroy our country. If anyone is unhappy with any Government policy or its implementation, there are forums in which they can air their grievances.

All major Government policies have been fully and adequately debated in Parliament and their implementation is supervised by Ministers and by myself. If people have complaints or grievances, these can be brought to the Ministers, Menteri-menteri Besar, Ketua-ketua Menteri. We have also established the Public Complaints Bureau or Biro Pengaduan Awam to which the public can write their complaints and these complaints or grievances will be attended to immediately.

Saudara-saudara sekalian,

I do hope that members of the Gerakan in particular, and all members of component parties of the National Front will do all they can to get the people to understand Government policies and to support Government plans to bring about peace and stability to our country.

We have stated and as Dr. Lim rightly explained, our New Economic Policy is intended to eradicate poverty among our people of all races and to restructure society so that everyone

will have a rightful place in our country. The implementation of our economic policies is being constantly reviewed and I am personally supervising the implementation through the National Action Council.

It is true that in some cases we are not yet able to satisfy all the needs and expectations of our people but our programmes are continued and we will always review our efforts from time to time. At the end of this year, we shall have completed the implementation of the Second Malaysia Plan and from next year we will implement the Third Malaysia Plan.

I have already stated, in our Third Malaysia Plan, we shall lay greater emphasis on the less fortunate of our people not only in providing them with fair and reasonable income but also in facilities such as housing. We are determined to do all this because our objective is clear and we will strive towards this objective unrelentlessly to create a fair and just society for all.

In order to enable Government to achieve this objective, we must have the support of all loyal citizens of our country. And, above all, we must have peace and stability. That is why it is important that we take firm and stern measures against anti-national elements who are out to frustrate our development efforts and to create doubt and uncertainty among the minds of our people and thereby undermine our national unity and the people's confidence in the Government.

The people have given the National Front a solid mandate to govern this country for the next five years. We pledge during the Elections to carry out our Manifesto. We shall implement that pledge and do our utmost to fulfil our promise to the people. I have stressed this at the General Assembly of UMNO, also at the National Assemblies to the MCA and MIC and I am now saying to our friends in the Gerakan that it is our duty to carry out what we have promised the people in the Elections and that the mandate we received places heavy responsibility on us.

In the face of the present challenge to our security and unity, I am greatly heartened by the very clear and unequivocal stand made by Dr. Lim on behalf of the Gerakan, that Gerakan as a

partner in the National Front, stand for unity of our people and for the establishment of a fair and just society, that Gerakan will resist sectional chauvinism or any attempt to divide our people.

As Dr. Lim rightly stated, despite challenges and setbacks, we had made much progress during the last eighteen years since we achieved Independence. We must therefore continue to build on this foundation for greater progress and greater unity. As Leader of the National Front, I pledge before you that so long as I am Leader of this Party I will continue to carry out for policies without fear or favour and with fairness to all. We are determined to build a united and happy country where everyone, whatever his or her racial origin may be, will have a rightful place and that the wealth of this country will be fairly and justly shared by all.

Saudara-saudara sekalian,

Kerajaan Barisan Nasional yang saya pimpin pada hari ini akan terus menjalankan usaha-usaha bagi meninggikan taraf hidup rakyat di negara ini. Dalam pada itu, saya juga berharap agar semua golongan sedia memberi kerjasama erat terhadap segala usaha Kerajaan itu.

Seperti yang telah saya sebutkan, kita sekarang ini sedang menghadapi beberapa persoalan dan masalah khasnya masalah keselamatan dan kemerosotan ekonomi. Kerajaan Pusat telah menjalankan tindakan untuk mengurangkan perbelanjaan dengan langkah berjimat cermat dan Kerajaan Negeri juga dikehendaki berbuat demikian.

Bagi pihak rakyat, mereka hendaklah memberi persefahaman dan pandangan yang sempurna kepada masalah yang dihadapi oleh Kerajaan itu dan mereka hendaklah bersama membantu Kerajaan dalam menghadapi kesulitan itu walaupun terpaksa berkorban sedikit sebanyak.

Saudara-saudara sekalian,

Akhir kata, saya sekali lagi mengucapkan terima kasih kepada saudara-saudara yang telah sudi menjemput saya untuk merasmikan Persidangan Agung Luar Biasa Parti Gerakan ini. Saya

percaya dengan pimpinan yang penuh dedikasi dan dinamis oleh Y.A.B. Dr. Lim Chong Eu serta lain-lain anggota Jawatankuasa Pusat, Parti Gerakan sudah tentu akan dapat memainkan peranannya dengan lebih berkesan lagi.

Dengan ini saya dengan bangga dan sukacitanya merasmikan Persidangan Agung Luar Biasa Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia ini.