

UCAPAN YAB DATO HUSSEIN ONN,
PERDANA MENTERI MALAYSIA,
DI PERESMIAN PERHIMPUNAN AGONG
TAHUNAN PARTI GERAKAN, DI HOTEL
MERLIN, KUALA LUMPUR PADA HARI
SABTU, 26HB. MEI, 1979 JAM 9.30PAGI

1. Yang Amat Berhormat Dr. Lim Chong Eu,
Presiden Parti Gerakan.

2. Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohd.

3. Yang Berhormat Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba,
Setiausaha Agong Barisan Nasional.

4. Ahli-Ahli Majlis Kerja Pusat Gerakan.

5. Yang Berhormat Ketua-Ketua Parti Komponen
Barisan Nasional.

6. Para Perwakilan.

7. Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan sekalian.

1. Saya mengucapkan berbanyak terima kaseh kepada Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia, terutama kepada Presiden nya Dr. Lim Chong Eu, kerana sudi menjemput saya, dan memberi penghormatan. untuk membuka Mesyuarat Perwakilan Tahunan Parti nya.

2. Pilihanraya Umum telah pun selesai pada tahun lepas, dan Barisan Nasional telah diberi mandat yang menyeluruh oleh rakyat, supaya mentadbirkan negara ini selama lima tahun. Di Pulau Pinang, Kerajaan Barisan Nasional adalah di ketuai oleh Ketua Parti Gerakan.

3. Kemenangan Barisan Nasional dalam Pilihanraya Umum, tidak sekali-kali melalaikan kita semua daripada tanggungjawab kita kepada rakyat. Sebaleknya, kita melipatgandakan lagi usaha kita terhadap pembangunan negara dan pertumbuhan ekonomi. Ini adalah terbukti daripada tindakan dan tambahan peruntukan yang berikut daripada Kajian Setengah Penggal Rancangan Malaysia Ketiga. Dalam perkara ini, Parti Gerakan adalah terlibat dan menyempurnakan tanggungjawabnya, terutama berkenaan pembangunan di Negeri Pulau Pinang. Di peringkat Pusat,

Menteri dan Timbalan Menteri daripada Parti Gerakan telah bekerja dengan kuat dan bersungguh-sungguh di Kementerian-Kementerian. Bagitulah juga dengan Ahli-ahli Parlimen dan Dewan Undangan Negeri daripada Parti itu. Semangat dan minat ahli-ahli Parti Gerakan untuk berkhidmat kepada Barisan Nasional dan negara amatlah membanggakan. Parti Gerakan tidak kurang daripada parti-parti yang lain, yang memberi kekuatan kepada Barisan Nasional. Dengan semangat yang begitu kuat, yang telah ditunjukkan oleh ahli-ahli Parti Gerakan, tidak ada sebabnya

yang Parti itu tidak boleh bertambah berjaya lagi, di masa-masa hadapan.

6/-

Ladies and Gentlemen.

6. Today's Annual General Assembly of the Gerakan, is the first to be held by a component party of the Barisan Nasional since the massive general elections victory last year. Every component party in the Barisan Nasional, should therefore seriously analyse the victory, and find ways and means to improve its performance, so that the Barisan Nasional may further strengthen its position as the ruling party. At the same time, it must use the mandate to intensify its efforts

in the coming years to fulfil its promises. The Barisan Nasional must continue to dedicate itself to the achievement of peace, stability, prosperity, social justice and a better life for all Malaysians. This has been our pledge, and we must honour it.

7. As you are aware, Barisan Nasional was formed to lessen politicking amongst the various political parties. The political stability which has been achieved, has enabled us to devote more time and energy to the task of national development. This has benefitted the people. The component

parties must continue to work together at all levels.

We cannot afford to work at cross-purposes, as this will be against the very concept of forming the Barisan Nasional.

8. It is imperative that the component parties should continually examine their contributions towards the achievement of the objectives of the Barisan Nasional. They should constantly evaluate their role in the Barisan Nasional.

They should ask themselves whether they have really and adequately served the greater interests

of the Barisan Nasional. The collective strength of the Barisan Nasional depends upon the effectiveness of each and every component party. This should be the primary consideration.

8A. In a multi racial society, each community invariably makes its own demands. Very often, these demands are competing. In such a case, unless there is a machinery for resolving them, there will be endless conflicts and perhaps chaos. Fortunately for us, through the wisdom of our leaders and our people, the Barisan Nasional was formed to provide this machinery. Through it,

vital issues are discussed and determined.

8B. It cannot be denied that through the collective efforts of the Barisan Nasional, every community in this country has benefitted.

The increasing prosperity and well being of all the communities -----Malays, Chinese, Indians and others----- are due to the joint efforts of the component parties in the Barisan Nasional. In this respect, each and every one in the

of the component parties / Barisan Nasional can justifiably be proud.

9B/-

8C. It is a fact of life, that people tend to take for granted the benefits which they enjoy, and magnify their dissatisfaction for the things they don't have. In our society, this assumes racial overtones. The benefits enjoyed by a community, is assumed by another community to be at the expense of own. Unless promptly checked, this attitude has a disruptive effect on relations among the communities in our country. It is the responsibility of leaders to remind the people, particularly those of their own community, of the benefits they are enjoying.

Instead of competing with the opposition in
in the Barisan Nasional
exploiting dissatisfaction, we/should highlight
the gains that each community has derived
from our partnership in the Barisan.

8D. It is distressing to hear discordant
voices attacking the New Economic Policy.
Economic Policy

I would like to remind the critics that the New
is vital to the stability of this country.

It was evolved following the tragic events
of May 13, 1969. The turmoil of May 13 was
the outcome of a breakdown in consensus among
our people./the major racial groups

There was no consensus then among

was fair and just.

The situation was exploited by irresponsible elements. When order was restored, political leaders consulted each other to evolve a new strategy for the survival of the country. It was then that the New Economic Policy was formulated. It represents a new consensus upon which we can build a united and stable nation. However, that in the implementation of the policy some people may have been adversely affected. Through the consultative machinery of the Barisan Nasional, we try to resolve any problems that may arise.

9. There are naturally many areas of conflict; some have been resolved within the framework of the Barisan Nasional, while others cannot immediately be resolved, but need time, patience and the spirit of give and take. Every one of us has something to be unhappy about. Should one then succumb to one's emotion and lose all hope of the future?

Will this help solve our problems? Through the machinery of consultations, which is inherent in the Barisan Nasional, we have been able to discuss and give due consideration to the problems and interests of all the communities. Solutions to major problems have always been the results of consultations with the leaders and representatives of political parties. The Gerakan, the UMNO, MCA, MIC and other parties, have all benefitted from this consultative machinery.

10. We have been adopting
the procedure of consultation and the spirit of

give and take.as a means to perpetuate communalism.

These critics want a Malaysian approach,and so

far they have not been successful. Why?

Because they have ignored the present-day

realities of our country's politics. Any approach

that fails to recognise the racial imbalances

and inequalities will not succeed. The Barisan

Nasional recognises these hard realities too well.

No other approach can achieve what we have

achieved so far. We must therefore continue

with it,until such time that the people,or a

majority of them,are ready to accept a new system.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

11. We achieved our independence because of the spirit of cooperation and compromise of the various communities. We enjoy our independence because of their farsightedness. The foundations of our country's unity, peace and prosperity were laid by the generation of Malaysians before us. We are still a young country. Each succeeding generation of Malaysians must continue to build and add to the foundations. It is our duty to build our country's future. If the present generation of Malaysians cares only

for its own community then we shall lose the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

12. The Gerakan is no less important to the Barisan Nasional than the UMNO, MCA, MIC and the other parties. The real strength of the Barisan Nasional lies in the collective strength of all its component parties. Each has its role and effectiveness. The Gerakan in its own way, has contributed in no small measure towards the political stability and economic development of the country, particularly in the State of Penang.

It is ably led, and in its President, Dr. Lim Chong Eu, I have a sincere friend and colleague, upon whom I can depend for support and advice. The same can also be said with regard to the other leaders of Gerakan. The strength and effectiveness of a political party do not depend solely upon the size of its membership. The quality of its leadership, integrity and high principles, are factors which should also be taken into account. The Gerakan does not lack all these. I am sure the Gerakan will continue to play its useful role in the Barisan Nasional. However big or small a role it plays, will undoubtedly

contribute towards the development and well-being of our country. I now have great pleasure in declaring open the 5th Annual General Assembly of the Gerakan.

Thank you.



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