

92-2970

**Battle**  
*for*  
**DEMOCRACY**  
*in*  
**Malaysia**

*by*  
Lim Kit Siang

NASKHAH PEMELIHARAAN  
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA  
*Selected Speeches & Press Statements*

13 OCT 1992

DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY

24, Jalan 20/9,  
46300 Petaling Jaya.  
Tel: 03-7578022

Copyright © Democratic Action Party

First published 1992

Printed by: PERNIAGAAN YAKIN  
No. 4, Jalan Pudu Ulu Cheras,  
56100 Kuala Lumpur.

m  
320 9595  
LIM

695006  
APB

Price - \$15.00

19 OCT 1993  
Perpustakaan Negara  
Malaysia

# INTRODUCTION

## *Parliament has become a travesty of democracy in Malaysia*

This selection of my speeches and press statements is entitled "Battle for Democracy in Malaysia" because this was the single most important issue in the period covered - from 19th May to June 30, 1992.

The suspension of the Parliamentary Opposition Leader from attending Parliament until the end of the year is the culmination of a long trend of undemocratic developments in the country under the Mahathir administration.

This had been preceded by the mass detentions under the Internal Security Act under Operation Lalang in October 1987; the 1988 attack on judicial independence and the rule of law with the sacking of Tun Salleh Abas as Lord President and Tan Sri Wan Sulaiman and Datuk George Seah as Supreme Court judges; the denial of press freedom and manipulation of the mass media, resulting in the withdrawal of the 25-year printing permit of the DAP organ, the Rocket, for public sale and circulation; the undemocratic victimisation of the people of Sabah and Kelantan for exercising their democratic right to choose the state government they want; and the unilateral Johore Bahru policy announcement by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, on April 16, 1992 proclaiming the abandonment of the 35-year Federal Government policy to uphold the secular Federal Constitution.

The Parliamentary Opposition Leader was suspended not because he had breached any Standing Orders (unlike the MP for Pasir Mas, Ibrahim Ali, and previously the MCA Deputy Education Minister, Dr. Fong Chan Onn, who had made obscene gestures and indecent signs in front of women MPs, women civil servants, women reporters and large groups of girl students), but because of his insistence to make further disclosures in Parliament on the \$120 million MAIKA Telekom shares hijacking scandal.

Democracy in Malaysia has reached a very sorry state when Parliament could be used to suppress political and financial scandals in the country.

What is sorrier still is that the majority of Malaysians are not aware that the Malaysian Parliament has become a travesty of democracy because of the tight control, censorship and manipulation of the mass media and the people's minds.

This is why this book has been published - to break the tyranny over the minds of Malaysians exercised by the Barisan Nasional government.

The Barisan Nasional Government has been very successful in manipulating the minds and opinions of Malaysians, as it had achieved this tyranny without many people realising that they have fallen victims to its mental manipulation and control.

As I said in the Introduction to Volume One of 'Selected Speeches and Press Statements', the Malaysian Press has reached a stage where it is free to print lies but not free to publish the truth.

This was why two questions frequently asked by the English-educated Malaysians since the October 1990 general elections are:

1. Has the DAP closed shop?
2. Are DAP leaders now 'frightened' to speak up for the rights of the people and to fight for democracy, human rights, justice, a clean and honest government and national unity as in the past?

Those who have read the first two Volumes of 'Selected Speeches and Press Statements' and the present Volume Three, 'Battle for Democracy in Malaysia', will realise the seriousness of such tyranny over the minds of the people in Malaysia as a result of such a press black-out of all DAP and opposition news and other forms of dissent.

It is precisely to breach such press blackout and tyranny over the minds of the people that we are publishing in this volume, four extracts from the Hansards of Dewan Rakyat during the May Parliament which shows how the DAP's expose of the \$120 MAIKA Telekom shares hijacking scandal led to the unholy conspiracy by Barisan Nasional Ministers and MPs with Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu to suspend the Parliamentary Opposition Leader from attending Parliament until the end of the year. (see Appendix).

This was a clear message by the Barisan Nasional Ministers and MPs that when it came to a choice between upholding democracy or suppressing corruption, abuses of power, criminal breach of trust and financial scandals in the country, they will opt for the latter.

**Lim Kit Siang**  
**Parliamentary Opposition Leader**  
**DAP Secretary-General**  
**1st July 1992**