

Dr M deserves prize for bringing accord with MCP
Malaysiakini.com
July 27, 2011

It is a welcome historic announcement that the celebration for the anniversary of Merdeka/Malaysia will be held on the same date as that of the formation of Malaysia.

I believe it to be in the national interest that a "token" award of a peace prize, should be awarded to Tun Dr Mahathir as well as the author of the book; 'The Finest Hour: Malaysian Government -MCP Peace Accord in Perspective', to commemorate the peace accord between the Malaysian Government and the Malayan Communist Party.

Indeed, it is most surprising that an award was not given when the agreement itself was signed.

As a result, Malaysia stands among one of very few countries in the world where political independence was declared without peace in the country.

The accord itself has spectacular significance, coming as it did thirty-two years after political independence, and after Malaysia entered the book of records as one of the very few countries in the world where peace became a reality only much later after political independence from the British.

This was the splendid achievement of Dr Mahathir, the then prime minister, in attaining peace so that the Malaysian people, particularly through the politically neutral business and corporate sectors, could embark on the development of a nation-wide nation-building political economy.

The book is being translated to Chinese and Malaysians should now recognise this milestone by offering the Peace Prize to Tun Dr Mahathir for single-handedly orchestrating the entire peace process, as well as to the author for the publication of the book.

The tremendous and continuing post-Emergency contribution of the corporate sector towards nation-building would not have been possible without the declaration of peace whereby vital financial resources of government were re- channeled for the development of the political economy.

There is no question therefore that the book provides focused coverage of 'the Finest Hour' as that which overcame the need for mere technical explanations, in demolishing the notion of local 'Cina Komunis' attempts, to overthrow the government by revolution.

Indeed the book which in his foreword Dr Mahathir called "bold and extraordinary" with 'stunning observations', brings into sharper focus the much neglected nationalist contribution of the local Chinese community in the struggle for political independence and for peace.

For the first time ever the work, as identified by Blackwell's Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, acknowledges that the Chinese community, labeled as Communists by the colonial power, did in fact take the lead in organising and orchestrating popular resistance among all other local groups against British rule that ultimately led to political independence and peace.

Therefore it is now opportune that the corporate sector should sponsor the lead, especially on behalf of the Chinese business community comprising grassroots manufacturing enterprises and industries, and the larger enterprises in the corporate sector, in offering this token award.

Indeed, such recognition was also called for by other groups notably by trade's union organisations one of which went so far as to suggest that a suitable "monument" be built to entrench Dr Marathir's unprecedented achievement in bringing peace to Malaysia.

The Ministries for Heritage and communication should co-ordinate these efforts as a matter of urgency.

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd
<http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/171216>