

Kit Siang: Read Dr M's Vision 2020 challenges to know where we failed

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Yoursay

Lim Kit Siang has petitioned all federal lawmakers and ministers to read the nine strategic challenges outlined by Dr Mahathir Mohamad when launching his Vision 2020.

Advising all Malaysians to do the same, the DAP leader said this would help them “understand where we have failed in nation-building in the last six decades”.

Suggesting that Mahathir himself could benefit from a refresher course on the subject, Lim (above) said the former prime minister appears to have abandoned Vision 2020 and the nine challenges.

The veteran politician also provided excerpts from Mahathir’s speech when launching Vision 2020 in 1991, which read: “By the year 2020, Malaysia can be a united nation, with a confident Malaysian society, infused by strong moral and ethical values, living in a society that is democratic, liberal, and tolerant; caring, economically just, and equitable; progressive and prosperous, and in full

possession of an economy that is competitive, dynamic, robust, and resilient.

“There can be no fully developed Malaysia until we have finally overcome the nine central strategic challenges that have confronted us from the moment of our birth as an independent nation.

“The first of these is the challenge of establishing a united Malaysian nation with a sense of common and shared destiny. This must be a nation at peace with itself, territorially, and ethnically integrated, living in harmony and full and fair partnership, made up of one ‘Bangsa Malaysia’ with political loyalty and dedication to the nation.”

After re-reading the challenges, Lim said he found, to his “horror”, that all nine were abject failures for Malaysia.

“It is precisely because all the nine strategic challenges were abject failures, Malaysia regressed from a first-rate world-class nation to a second-rate mediocre country in danger of ending up as a third-class divided, failed, and kleptocratic state on Malaysia’s Centennial in 2057.

“It is also the reason why Malaysia has become a very corrupt country, losing out to Indonesia, China, and India over the last few decades,” he added.

Noting that the nation has never been so divided and polarised as before, Lim castigated Mahathir for attempting to widen the fissures.

“The person who launched Vision 2020 is not doing anything to ensure the rise of ‘Bangsa Malaysia’ with political loyalty and dedication to the nation, but the very opposite - in the company of people to spread the divisive and toxic politics of race and religion based on lies, falsehood, and fake news like DAP promoting Islamophobia,” he said.

Lim also accused the opposition of doing the opposite of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong’s call for political stability to undo the wrongs and failures of the past by “creating political upheavals and storms that will further speed Malaysia’s decline and descent.”

Mahathir, whose first tenure as prime minister was from 1981 to 2003, had launched the vision with the goal of Malaysia becoming a self-sufficient industrialised nation by the year 2020.

The nine challenges he listed were:

1. Establishing a united Malaysian nation made up of one Bangsa Malaysia (Malaysian Race).

2. Creating a psychologically liberated, secure, and developed Malaysian society.
3. Fostering and developing a mature democratic society.
4. Establishing a fully moral and ethical society.
5. Establishing a matured liberal and tolerant society.
6. Establishing a scientific and progressive society.
7. Establishing a fully caring society.
8. Ensuring an economically just society, in which there is a fair and equitable distribution of the wealth of the nation.
9. Establishing a prosperous society with an economy that is fully competitive, dynamic, robust, and resilient.

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