

UCAPAN PERDANA MENTERI DI PERHIMPUNAN
AGUNG MIC, DI DEWAN SIVIK, PETALING JAYA
PADA 2HB OGOS, 1980

Saya ucapkan sebanyak terima kasih kepada Pemangku Presiden dan Jawatankuasa Pusat MIC kerana menjemput saya untuk membuka Perhimpunan Agung MIC yang kedua puluh lapan pada pagi ini. MIC telah ditubuhkan 35 tahun yang lalu. Dalam usianya yang begitu lama, MIC telah melalui dan menghadapi berbagai-bagai kesulitan dan cabaran, seperti juga parti-parti politik yang lain. Ini semua telah menjadikan MIC sebagai sebuah parti politik yang matang dan penuh pengalaman. Ia juga telah menguatkan lagi kedudukan MIC untuk menghadapi cabaran-cabaran dan meneruskan perjuangannya di masa-masa hadapan.

Perhimpunan Agung kali ini diadakan di bawah pimpinan baru iaitu Dato Samy Vellu berikutan dengan kematian Presidennya, mendiang Tan Sri Manickavasagam. Saya yakin bahawa Perhimpunan Agung ini akan berjaya. Saya juga yakin bahawa MIC akan bertambah kukuh supaya dapat memainkan peranan dan tanggungjawabnya dalam Barisan Nasional.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank the Acting President of the MIC, Dato S. Samy Vellu, for inviting me to open the 28th General Assembly of this party. It is a great honour to me. As we all know, every component party in the Barisan Nasional is always active in party and national affairs. Every meeting of the General Assembly of a component party is of great interest not only to the members of the Barisan Nasional but also to the general public as well. It is at meetings such as this that we will hear the big issues and problems of the nation and communities. If we take the views expressed in the proper spirit, then we and the country will stand to gain. We may differ with the views expressed with regard to the issues and solutions. Nevertheless, we should hear and consider them in the same sincere spirit in which they are given.

I would also like to thank Dato Samy Vellu for inviting me to the MIC 35th Anniversary Dinner tomorrow night. With great regret I shall be unable to come as I have to be present at the closing of the National and International Koran Reading Competition.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As with the other parties, the MIC has also lost through death some of its able leaders. Among them are Tun Sambanthan, Tan Sri Manickavasagam and Tan Sri Athi Nahappan. All of them had served the MIC, the Indian Community and the country with great dedication. We all should be proud of them. Upon the shoulders of Dato Samy Vellu has fallen now the burden and responsibility of leading and guiding the MIC. The burden is heavy and the responsibility is great. The strength of the Barisan Nasional depends, first and foremost, upon the internal stability of its component parties. While it is natural to have some differences among leaders and groups within a party, these should not, in my humble view, be allowed to affect the unity and strength of the party. However, it is heartening to hear that the membership of the MIC has continued to grow and new branches will be opened.

Since 1974, the Barisan Nasional has given the country political stability. As a result, our country has been able to achieve steady economic growth and implement the development plans. Political stability has brought prosperity to the country and people. The composition of the Barisan Nasional itself suggests that on some matters, there are differing claims and views. Nevertheless, it seeks to resolve these matters by negotiation, understanding and goodwill. We create the Barisan Nasional for the greater overall interests of the country.

I have received the MIC memorandum containing views and proposals for the further improvement of the Indian community in various fields in the Fourth Malaysia Plan. The proposals are being studied and where appropriate will be included in the Fourth Malaysian Plan.

We are now half-way through the overall Perspective Plan of the New Economic Policy. Political parties, which represent the various communities, are naturally interested to know the results

so far. Economic meetings have been held by UMNO, MCA and MIC. Without exception, these meetings have expressed great concern in one way or another. The Bumiputeras are not happy with the progress so far and fear that the objectives of the New Economic Policy will not be achieved. The Chinese on the other hand say that they have not received much benefit, and fear that what they have will be taken away from them. The Indians say that their position has worsened. Statistics, however, indicate that all these are not wholly true. Every community has benefited from the economic development and the New Economic Policy. There may, however be differences in degree. This is to be expected. It appears that the tendency of every community is to magnify what it should get and to be silent on what it has already been given. Eradication of poverty and restructuring of society are big and difficult tasks. No community will be fully satisfied with the result and the ways in which they are to be achieved.

Saya telah menyentuh tentang MIC, Barisan Nasional dan pembangunan ekonomi. Saya juga telah menegaskan tentang faedah pembangunan yang telah dinikmati oleh semua pihak. Saya harap semua pihak akan menilai kemajuannya masing-masing dengan seimbang.

Dengan ini, saya dengan amat sukacitanya merasmikan pembukaan perhimpunan agung ini.