

UCAPAN PERDANA MENTERI KETIKA MERASMIKAN  
PERSIDANGAN PERWAKILAN PARTI GERAKAN  
RAKYAT MALAYSIA, DI DEWAN BANDARAN, PORT  
DICKSON PADA 17<sup>HB</sup> OGOS, 1980

Yang Amat Berhormat Dr Lim Chong Eu, Presiden Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Rais Yatim, Menteri Besar Negeri Sembilan, Ketua-Ketua dan Wakil-wakil Parti-Parti Komponen dalam Barisan Nasional, Ahli-ahli Jawatan-kuasa Pusat Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia, Para Perwakilan, Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan sekalian.

Saya mengucapkan berbanyak terima kasih kepada Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia dan Dr Lim Chong Eu kerana sudi menjemput saya ke Perhimpunan Agung Tahunan partinya pada pagi ini. Perhimpunan Agung Tahunan kali ini adalah menarik lebih perhatian oleh kerana ia akan memilih Presiden partinya yang baru dan juga ketua-ketua dan pegawai-pegawai yang lain. Dr Lim Chong Eu telah membuat keputusan bahawa ia tidak akan bertanding lagi sebagai Presiden. Parti Gerakan tidak kekurangan dengan calon-calon yang muda dan berkebolehan. Maka terdengarlah kita bahawa pertandingan yang agak hebat, tetapi dengan penuh perasaan bertanggungjawab akan berlaku dipersidangan ini. Memang bijak Dr Lim Chong Eu memilih Port Dickson kerana mengadakan persidangan ini. Dengan pandangan ke laut yang begitu indah dan suasana yang begitu tenang, maka dapatlah para perwakilan sekalian membuat keputusannya masing-masing dengan aman dan bijaksana.

Saya mendoakan supaya persidangan ini berjaya dan Parti Gerakan meneruskan kerjasamanya dengan parti-parti komponen yang lain dalam Barisan Nasional.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank the Party Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia for inviting me to address its Sixth Annual General Assembly this morning. As Dr Lim Chong Eu has said just now, this is an important meeting. Not only will delegates be electing new office bearers, but they will also be revising the Party's Constitution. This is being done to consolidate and strengthen the party so that it can play a more effective political role in the future.



YAB Dato Hussein Onn, berucap di Majlis Persidangan Perwakilan Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia di Dewan Bandaran, Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan pada 17hb Ogos, 1980.

The Gerakan General Assembly this time has created greater interest in the public mind. This, as we all know, has been due to the decision of Dr Lim Chong Eu not to stand again for the post of National President. Dr Lim Chong Eu informed me of his decision a long time ago. My view of politics and politicians is that: politics is a stage and politicians are merely players; they have their entrances and they have their exits. Dr Lim Chong Eu has explained the reason for his decision. He says that there are many young and capable persons in the Party who are thoroughly imbued with the principles and objectives of the Party. Dr Lim Chong Eu has great faith in these people, and as a leader, he has put the interests of his party first and his personal interests last. This is a mark of a true leader.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have known and worked closely with Dr Lim Chong Eu for quite a long time. He is another of those true Malaysian patriots. Many people, even in his own party, find it difficult to understand him and his many fine qualities. He has great faith in the future of the country, in national unity and in a fair and just society. He has never deviated from this belief. He has shown it by words and deeds.

Apart from his wife, Dr Lim Chong Eu's other great love is development. Under his able leadership, Penang has become one of the most developed and progressive States in Malaysia. He has brought this about by sheer hardwork, imagination and singleness of purpose. In national affairs, he is a sincere and patient counselor.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Development and modernization cannot be brought about without both social and political adaptation. The social system with its sets of norms, values and institutions governing the interaction of people with a society, tends to change very slowly. It is the political aspect of development which often triggers a faster rate of change. Once the change is set in motion, the political system itself may find difficulties in adjusting its structure to the needs of the new society.

Past and present national leaders have recognised the need for some major changes in the structure of Malaysia's political system. Of great significance has been the expansion of the governmental

base, in which the major political parties in Malaysia can participate. Hence the establishment of the Barisan Nasional. This is proof of our beliefs in participative democracy. The Barisan Nasional embodies political consensus among a wide cross section of political parties. This is a distinctive feature of the country's political development and environment. The Barisan Nasional is an alliance of political parties which has a common belief that open intemperate debate and party politics based on sectional interests, could divert the energies of Malaysians from the more vital task of nation-building. The Barisan Nasional tries to resolve sensitive national issues within the structure of political consensus. It has avoided open conflicts between individuals, groups and communities. It has avoided to a great extent divisiveness within the society. The strategy for this has already been put into effect. A wider political base has enable the Government to achieve a wider social mobilization. The country can, with confidence, look forward to a total mobilization of its people with undivided loyalty and within a democratic framework. This commitment now needs to be extended to the grassroots level. This will be the greatest challenge to national leaders now and in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is still much confusion and ignorance with regard to the objectives of the New Economic Policy. The Government's policy in this regard as well as its development and socio-economic plans have already been made public. They are given in great details in the Second and Third Malaysia Plans. They are our positive efforts to meet the socio-economic and political challenge of our time. They are as comprehensive as we can make them. They take full cognisance of the socio-economic needs of our multi-racial people, the political realities of our time and the security threat confronting us. What we seek through the New Economic Policy and the Development Plans is an economic order to enhance the well-being of Malaysians of all races from all walks of life and in all regions of the country.

In the implementation of the New Economic Policy, a dangerous misconception about the goals of poverty eradication and restructuring society has arisen. This misconception has been irresponsibly exploited. It has been alleged that the objectives are intended to benefit the Bumiputeras only. We know that the poor in Malaysia

involve other races as well, although the majority are Bumiputeras living in rural areas. Urban poverty is another misconception. When the migration of Bumiputeras to the urban areas, the problem is no longer confined to non-Bumiputeras only. Urban poverty has therefore become a multi-racial problem.

Similarly, the goal of restructuring society does not only involve increasing the participation of the Bumiputeras in commerce and industry. It involves the achievement of a multi-racial structure in all sectors and at all levels in order to correct past imbalances and their inadequate representation in various fields. This implies an inter-sectoral movement of people and ownership on a multi-racial basis, if all sectors of the Malaysian economy are ultimately to reflect the racial composition of the nation.

The responsibility for overcoming the ethnological perspective of development goals and strategies lies both with the Government and the people. Over-emphasizing on the special rights of the Bumiputeras by public official will create fear on the part of other Malaysians. This will lead to a sense of alienation and neglect. Equally, undue pressure on the part of other Malaysians for a stake over and above that envisaged by the New Economic Policy can be disruptive. Only an awareness and acceptance of the national character of the policy to remedy the ethnological imbalance in the national economy and a refrain from making demands based on purely racial lines will the nation be able to devote full attention to these national goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The New Economic Policy and the various Development Plans will continue to interest us all. The Outline Perspective Plans 1971-1990 gives the broad socio-economic framework within which the objectives of the New Economic Policy are being pursued. The policy has been widely accepted, and this acceptance shows our national resilience. Criticism and dissatisfaction regarding its implementation will continue to be heard. Nevertheless, where mistakes, omissions, weaknesses and over-zealousness occur, they will be rectified as much as is possible. We have embarked upon a gigantic task which requires for its success, endless efforts, patience, understanding and goodwill on the part of all our people. It is a task worth doing for on its success, depends the unity, stability and prosperity of our country and people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Coming back to the Gerakan, many important national and international issues are being discussed by this General Assembly. Dr Lim Chong Eu in this address has mentioned a number of specific matters and made a number of suggestions. I thank him for his views and suggestions. Although he will no longer be the National President of his party, he will continue to be the Chief Minister of his State. I look forward to continue working with him in that capacity. To the new leaders come and leaders go but parties must go on. New and young leaders must come up to take the places of the old. Thank you.