

**UCAPAN PERDANA MENTERI DI MAJLIS MAKAN
MALAM ULANGTAHUN MCA KE 30 OLEH PARTI MCA
WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN DI DEWAN PERHIMPUNAN
CINA, KUALA LUMPUR PADA 22 APRIL, 1979.**

Y.B. Dato Lee San Choon, Presiden MCA, Y.B. Dato Lew Sip Hon, Pengerusi MCA Bahagian Wilayah Persekutuan, Y.B. Menteri-Menteri dan Timbalan-Timbalan Menteri, Ahli-Ahli Jawatankuasa Kerja Pusat MCA, Ahli-Ahli Jawatankuasa MCA Bahagian Wilayah Persekutuan, Y.B. Ahli-Ahli Parlimen, para tetamu kehormat, tuan-tuan dan puan-puan sekalian.

Saya mengucapkan berbanyak terima kasih kepada Dato Lew Sip Hon dan Ahli-Ahli MCA Bahagian Wilayah Persekutuan kerana sudi menjemput saya dan isteri saya ke majlis makan malam ini. Majlis ini, sebagaimana kita semua mengetahuinya, ialah sempena ulangtahun ke 30 MCA ditubuhkan. Di samping kita mengucapkan tahniah dan kesyukuran kepada MCA di atas ulangtahun yang ke 30 nya, kita juga bangga dengan kekukuhan dan kejayaan Bahagian Wilayah Persekutuan-nya. Kita yakin bahawa dengan pimpinan yang dinamik dan bijaksana, MCA Bahagian Wilayah Persekutuan akan lebih berpengaruh dan mendapat lebih banyak lagi sokongan daripada penduduk-penduduk. Ini amatlah penting dalam konteks perjuangan Barisan Nasional, khususnya di Wilayah Persekutuan. Kita yakin bahawa pada satu ketika nanti, semua kerusi Parlimen dalam Wilayah Persekutuan ini akan dimiliki oleh Barisan Nasional.

Wilayah Persekutuan, sungguhpun kecil dari segi saiznya, amatlah penting dari segi-segi yang lain. Kuala Lumpur ialah Ibukota negara kita; pusat pemerintahan negara adalah terletak di dalamnya; begitulah juga terletaknya pusat perniagaan; jumlah penduduk sekarang ini, hampir satu juta orang, dan ini kian bertambah. Sungguhpun ini memberi berbagai-bagai peluang, di samping itu, ia juga membawa dan membangkitkan berbagai-bagai masalah dan kerumitan. Saya akan menyentuh perkara-perkara ini sebentar lagi.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tonight's dinner, as we all know, is to commemorate the founding of the MCA thirty years ago. I would like to convey my congratulations to the MCA, not only in my capacity as Chairman of the Barisan

Nasional, but also as President of UMNO. To the Chairman (Dato Lew Sip Hon) and members of the Federal Territory Division of the MCA, I would like to express my thanks for kindly inviting my wife and I to this Anniversary Dinner.

As I have said just now, I am happy and glad to know that the MCA Federal Territory Division has strengthened and stabilised itself, and that it has also made progress. The Federal Territory, although small in size, is very important in many respects. Kuala Lumpur is the capital city of our country; it is the hub of the Federal Government; it is the nerve centre to our country's commerce; it is a fast growing city; the Territory's population at present is estimated to be nearly a million, and it is still growing. Although all these developments provide opportunities, they also bring about many problems.

The importance of the Federal Territory to the Barisan Nasional is obvious. The component parties in the Barisan Nasional must strive and make every effort to gain greater support from the people, particularly those in the lower income groups. We would like to see the day when all the parliamentary seats in the Federal Territory would be held by the Barisan Nasional. This is not an impossibility; what is really required is hard work and more hard work on the part of every one of us, especially those in the MCA Federal Territory Division.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Federal Territory needs development as much as any other areas. This requires comprehensive and coordinated planning. As we all know, there are many problems, some require immediate attention and solution, while others need long term solutions. Among the more pressing problems are squatters, low-cost housing, water and electricity supplies, sanitation facilities, traffic congestion, public transport and unemployment. These are among the reasons why I found it necessary to have a Ministry specially to look after the affairs and development of the Federal Territory.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will recollect that the government has stated that it is its policy to make Kuala Lumpur a Centre of Commerce. We cannot forever continue to be wholly dependent on the facilities provided by other countries for our commerce and services. What we can do ourselves, we must take over. We must gradually take over the bulk of our

exports and imports. We are building new ports, and expanding and improving the efficiency and facilities of existing ones; our airports are being improved; so are our roads and telecommunication services. Banks and other financial institutions are available to give support to our commerce; so are the insurance companies. Our supply of qualified manpower in the field of commerce is increasing. The government has taken and will continue to take steps to provide the necessary infrastructures and facilities so that the commerce of this country will be done in this country.

In the light of what I have just said, the business community in this country should march with the changing time and condition. Where its business is mainly in this country, then it should operate from this country. It should fully use the facilities which are available in this country such as insurance, banking, shipping, port and other services. This is our policy and this is what we will gradually implement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, may I once again thank the Federal Territory Division of the MCA for inviting my wife and I to this dinner, and for the opportunity to meet and address this big gathering. Thank you.