

A Summary of the President's Speech

Introduction: In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

- Conference Theme and the Foundation of PAS Struggle. The theme '*PAS for All*' subscribes to the universality of the Islamic message as propounded by PAS, notably the notion of Universal Justice that transcends racial and national boundaries that looks as well after the welfare of non-Muslims and working closely (at the international level) with the United Nations of ensuring a peaceful world devoid of unjust practices.
- PAS is not only a political party contesting in elections but also an organization dealing with the propagation (*dakwah*) and education (*tarbiah*) of Islam. It is also an Islamic movement and forming a part and parcel of the global Islamic movement.
- Political tsunami was due to close cooperation among members of People's Alliance (*Pakatan Rakyat*) which made possible for PAS to strengthen its hold on Kelantan, Kedah and Perak. It meaningfully participated in the administration of the state of Selangor and Pulau Pinang.
- The New Media, the so-called cyber crusaders, has effectively presented itself as the alternative media. They should, however, be ethically based.
- Political cooperation (*tahalluf siyasi*) was not an act of one man. It has gone through a process of discussions and deliberations with the PAS Central Political Committee, PAS Central Committee and the the Consultative Council of Ulama. The political cooperation is non-ideological in nature focussing on similar focal points of upholding justice and confronting injustices and misuse of power which finally evolved into the notion of 'welfare state', without touching each individual parties' ideologies within the Alliance.
- PAS consistently holding on to its promise of cooperation with the *Pakatan Rakyat* while maintaining the fact that PAS is more than just a political party. It also deals with the propagation and education of Islam. Its enlarged posture has made possible for PAS to hold talks with various sections of the community in the light of solving problems faced by the Islamic community (*ummah*). It certainly not interested in being the saviour of a drowning ship!!
- Islamofobia is a phenomenon created by enemies of Islam arising from the own weaknesses.
- During the last general elections, PAS has the biggest number of workers at the grass-root level, ensuring the enormous success and this should be rightfully appreciated. PAS members should not be overwhelmed by this victory to the extent of forgetting

that fact that we members of an Islamic movement with specific missions. However, the party should dictate the behavior of a government must be upheld.

- Islam should fill the true dimension of electoral victory, if not such a victory is meaningless as far as PAS is concerned.
- PAS members should be weary of the historical fact that Islamic movements were the front runners confronting the colonial aggressions but after achieving victories they were sidelined and marginalized by nationalists who claimed the victory of the struggles were wholly theirs.
- 'PAS for All' implicates the importance of filling in the electoral victory at various levels (national, state and local) with Islamic programs deemed suitable for each particular level.
- A new administrative shift in the running of state governments controlled by *Pakatan* is in stark contrast to states run by National Front, in that the administration of the states are devoid of any form of corruption and misuse of power. In this regard, Kelantan has paved the way as a shining example.
- The new states administration were, however, pestered by the BN through the creation of National Development Department, the election of village heads. This creation of 'the state within a state' is principally to destabilize the new state administration. In the process, the victims are the common people. The new state administration kept their promises, consistent with their 'welfare state' pronouncement as shown by the various welfare programs carried out: Social security scheme for the old in Kelantan, free water supply in Selangor, distribution of land titles in Perak and reduced land tax in Kedah.
- PAS will initiate the establishment of Chief Ministers Council of People Alliance as a joint platform and mutually beneficial. This is also very important as a way of attracting foreign investments.
- Coordinating Committee should be formed to oversee the administration of the five states. This Committee includes representatives of each political parties that formed the *Pakatan*. This Committee also acts as a problem-solving body should any misunderstanding arises.
- The role and infrastructure of mosques should be upgraded so that they could perform their multi-purpose functions of serving as centers for clinic, sports and tuition. Religious preachers should also be upgraded with necessary skills and knowledge so that they could effectively attend to the social ills of the community.
- The label that PAS is a 'king-maker' in the present political scenario has to be viewed in a cautious manner so as not to be seduced to the Machiavellian method of 'the target legitimizes the means'. There should be a synergized relationship between

PAS Central Committee, Daily Council, Specialized Committees and the Ulama Consultative Council.

- Organizationally, PAS now has 6332 Branches with 175 Divisions. Presently, the Parliament has 222 seats and this means PAS is ‘occupying’ 78.8% of the seats allocated. PAS need to increase its Divisions to 90% of the allocated parliamentary seats in the next two years. This means establishing 25 new Divisions.
- PAS members only made up of less than 10% of the overall Muslim population in Malaysia. The highest is in Kedah and Perlis (11%). PAS members for each state should be increased to 15% in the next two years, relative to the total Muslim population. This is the job for the party’s Enhancement Committee.
- ‘Let’s Join PAS’ campaign organized by Central Information and Propagation Committee should be widely spread to all levels (national, state and local). Let it be known to the public that PAS is the only political party that stands for Islam bereft of racial consideration. In this regard Umno has miserably failed and this is all the more reason for Umno members to join PAS.
- All PAS Divisions should have their own Local Communities Service Centers, professionally run, to serve local citizens of differing ethnic origin.
- One good result that came out of the last general election was that Islamofobia is on the run. The formation of Supporters Clubs for PAS among the Indian and Chinese voters is a clear testament to this fact. Efforts have to be made to increase the participation of these supporters in local activities organized by PAS. In the future, they should be playing bigger roles in PAS.
- The Ulama Consultative Council served as the unshakable foundation for the Party as rightly stated in its Constitution. The Council should also be given important roles in the running of the affairs of the Party . As inheritors of the roles of the Prophets, the Ulama, historically, were instrumental in setting-up Islamic administration in this region, contributed to the rise of Islamic civilization and spearheading the fight against colonial powers. Thus, the present roles of the Ulama must be further invigorated, especially among the younger generation.
- PAS Youth has done very well in convincing other youth to work for PAS in the last general election. The Welfare Unit established under PAS Youth has performed their responsibilities with flying colors. They have maintained a high standard of professionalism and discipline. In the light of this achievement, PAS Youth should also shoulder the responsibility of cultivating future leaders for PAS. These leaders must be of national as well as international qualities for them to effectively functioned as leaders in a fast changing world. In the overall organizational set up of the Party, PAS Youth should continue playing the role of ‘check and balance’ for the betterment of the Party.

- The Women Section of PAS has done well as well. They actively involved in electoral politics winning three parliamentary seats and four state seats. Three of them were appointed as State Executive Councilors (EXCO). In general, they have made their role felt in the wider society.
- Nationally, Malaysia is still plagued with imperfections, politically as well as economically. The human rights situation is far from settled. This has a direct link to the Police Act of 1967, which should at least be reformed if not scrapped. Institutions that promote democratic practices such as Election Commission should be truly independent of the powers that be. Other draconian laws such as Internal Security Act, Official Secret Act and the like must be reviewed in order to give freedom a real meaning.
- PAS has not only proven itself as a political party consistently involved in elections; it can also successfully marshaled a gigantic public support as in the case of BERSIH peaceful demonstration. It shows that PAS has its own strength that has to be reckon with.
- Economic mismanagement by the BN government has worsen the economic conditions which finally led to the withdrawal of RM13.7 billion oil subsidy on 6th of June 2008. The price of petrol has jumped to RM2.70 per liter, an increased of 41%. This has triggered inflation that led to the rise in the cost of living. Economic mismanagement has its own toll in terms of world competitiveness. Malaysia should have advanced economically, parallel to that of Taiwan and South Korea but in actual fact is trailing far behind the two countries. PAS is proactive in solving the economic woes of the nation as was shown by its active participation in National Economic Consultative Council.
- Social ills and increased in crimes are still rampant and on the rise. The present laws seem ineffective and irrelevant in dealing with this phenomenon.
- The Syariah Court should be upgraded, run by knowledgeable and skilled manpower so that it could play its rightful role within the Muslim community.
- Internationally, not much has changed. The Great Power is still bent on unilateral actions, contrary to the multilateral initiatives as suggested by United Nations. The impotency of the United Nations is starkly obvious in the treatment of the Palestinian. The welfare of the Palestinians has not changed for the better. In some cases, they are worst off. It is now 60 years after they were first driven off their own land by the Zionist in 1948. There are now 4.5 million Palestinians living as refugees. In this regard, PAS is consistent in its conviction that the Palestinians were the victims of Zionist tyrannical acts. The West must recognize likewise and not presenting 'double-standard' postures when it comes to Palestine. PAS is more than ever convinced that with the help of Allah the Mighty, and in not too distant future,

Palestine will be liberated, and we Muslims will be able to pray in peace at Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Muslims first Qibla.

- Any problems faced by Muslim countries should be solved, first and foremost, by Muslims themselves. In this case, the role of OIC is paramount. If Western powers are involved, they must be sincere in their efforts and be clouded with prejudices. As a peace-loving political party, PAS is against all forms of violence and terrorism; and PAS is of the opinion that a human being reacted violently when their rights were wrongly appropriated and when they unwillingly succumbed to the draconian laws of the jungle.
- **Conclusion:** May Allah Bless and Guide us all in our deliberations in seeking the Truth as exalted by Allah.