**Pakatan Harapan 100 days, Structural Reforms More Important - PSM**

Today is the 17th August , 2018 , supposedly the end of the 100 days for Pakatan after taking over Putrajaya, to fulfill their promises as per their 10 Janji, 100 Hari PRU14 Election Manifesto. After criticism from various NGOs and groups in the last two days, yesterday it was reported by Malaysiakini <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/439139>, that the Prime Minister has appealed for more time citing that they were confronted by bigger problems when they discovered that the situation was much worse financially and they had to remove people who did not share their aspirations.

Tun M’s clarification would have been a fair explanation if, we are convinced that they, Pakatan Harapan have tried their very best, as mentioned by the Deputy Prime Minsister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah, to deliver on their promises. But unfortunately, the responses from the Minsters, the U-turns, the flip flops in the last 100 days have raised eyebrows. We wonder, if they the PH politicians, really understood and truly believed their manifesto or did they just conveniently campaign on a populist bandwagon to lure votes.

**Backtracking on clear cut issues**

After 61 years of UMNO-BN rule, the rakyat and civil society organizations are sensibly patient enough to wait for certain reforms beyond the 100 days, with the understanding that these reforms will require an in depth study before execution. But we question PH true intentions to bring reforms when clear cut matters are delayed with unacceptable excuses.

Local council elections for instance has been on the manifesto since 2008 and various attempts have been made by the Selangor and Penang state governments to implement it. It is certainly not a new issue to be studied upon. So why the hesitation?

Is there an opposition to the local government election within the coalition? Citing financial constraints to carry out local council elections and delaying it for another 5 years is unjust. PH should prove their sincerity by at least preparing the amendment bills to the Local Government Act 1976 and reviving the Local Government Election Act in order to introduce local government elections.

We see the same stance in terms of setting the minimum wage. It was troubling to see how Tun M cut off the Human Resource Minister, whom should have announced the new minimum wage (which is already 8 months delayed) last Friday (10/8/2018). The PM shot down the idea of increasing wages saying that it wouldn’t make a difference if our purchasing power remained low and productivity didn’t increase. If Tun M respected the rule of law, than it is the law that minimum wages need to be reviewed and increased to meet the rising cost of living, so that working people are not driven into poverty.

PSM strongly feels that there should no delay in increasing the new minimum wage and our recommendation of RM1500 is a fair figure for this year 2018, not five years later as indicated by the Minister.

**Serious structural reforms needed, not just black shoes**

Besides the above and many other issues already highlighted by various CSO and individuals on the 100 day promise, PSM stresses that evaluation on the PH should be beyond the 100 days and we should focus if the new government has the conviction to make necessary serious structural reforms. It means beyond black shoes ruling and a tax on soda drinks.

10 key urgent reforms for Pakatan Harapan would be to;

1. Tilting the scale back from privatization policies of the 1980’s, ensuring public services and assets remain with the government to control and prevent any increase in cost of essential services on the rakyat.
2. GLC, GLIC play a large role in our economy. Thus it needs to revamp to ensure that their wealth generated through their investment and businesses are truly shared with the rakyat. At the moment these entities, even though government owned behave like private corporations, prioritizing profitability at all cost. GLC directly or indirectly also execute land grabbing, forced evictions, discriminatory practices amongst their workers etc. We need to democratize GLC and make them accountable to the rakyat. Placing the GLC, GLIC under the purview of the PMO is a step back.
3. Immediately freeze and review all federal and state land transactions to prevent strategic government owned land slipping away into private hands. Such key land banks provides great potential for the government to carry out projects directly benefiting the rakyat such as building of hospitals, universities , affordable housing etc.,.
4. Launch nationwide program towards increasing food security for the nation, taking back idle lands, easy loans for youths committing to start farms, paddy, livestock etc. Regulate cheap imports of agricultural products and enhance local production.
5. Halt all issuance of logging and mining licenses in reserve forest and recently de gazette forest. Immediately review recently de gazette areas for developmental projects. To stop, as soon as possible, further destruction of our natural forest heritage.
6. Dewan Negara has to be restructured to appoint members via a proportional representation method. Representative from specific interest groups need to be included to have their voice in Parliament.
7. Review all tax holidays and incentives given via MIDA (Malaysian Investment Development Authority) to foreign direct investors, to ensure profitable investments in manufacturing and services pay their due taxes to the government.
8. Malaysia takes the lead in ASEAN to truly develop an economic cooperation mechanism to challenge neo liberal model propagated by the super powers, IMF and World Bank. The Bandung spirit of 1955 needs to be revisited to safeguard our sovereignty and common interest amongst developing nations and Less Developed Countries.
9. Immediately halt all new purchases of arms to upgrade our defense. Study and review purchases in the pipeline, ensuring the real need for an upgrade. Budgets saved from unnecessary arms spending can be used in urgent development projects by other Ministries.
10. Halt Malaysia’s participation in the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) on going trade negotiations. Carry out RCEP’s true cost benefit analysis and a Human Rights Impact Assessment study before deciding to continue participation in this trade deal. Review all existing free trade agreements, bilateral trade agreements and withdraw from agreements that provide no net benefit to our economy and peoples welfare.

The above proposals, we regard would be key structural reforms that will clearly define the government of the day if it is actually a pro peoples government. PSM is concerned that Pakatan Harapans backtracking on some of the reforms, stems from not having a strongly rooted class analysis of the socio economics problems in Malaysia.

If policy makers form PH fail to grasp the workings and pressures from these global neoliberal model of development, they will end up being convinced by the same forces that they were supposed to reform in the first place.

***Sivarajan***

***Secretary General, PSM – 17th August, 2018.***