
[Liu Zhewei's column] The Fatherland Action Alliance is redundant



Liu Zhewei

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The Fatherland Action Alliance has been accused of being a trick used by Mahathir to try to disguise it as it is presented not as a political party but as a campaign to unite the Malay community against UMNO. (File photo: Perspective Malaysia)

Mahathir announced the official formation of the Gerakan Tanah Air, hoping to take 120 parliamentary seats in the next general election. I would say that Mahathir is indeed a smart man, he is good at disguising his ideas, and in fact, he ends up trying to achieve the same goals as before the disguise.

LET ME GIVE YOU A SIMPLE EXAMPLE, LET'S RECALL THAT IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE MOVEMENT RESTRICTION ORDER, THE MUHYIDDIN GOVERNMENT PERFORMED BADLY AND WAS HEAVILY CRITICIZED BY POLITICIANS AND THE PEOPLE, AND MAHATHIR PROPOSED THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE (MAGERAN) AND VOLUNTEERED TO LEAD.

Prior to this, it was known that if he wanted to return as prime minister, he would have to have the support of a large number of MPs. Simply put, it's a numbers game, and it's clear that he doesn't have that number. But to lead the National Action Committee, as long as the head of state is willing to commission, you can avoid a numbers game.

Although this is not the prime minister's office, in fact, compared to the prime minister, the National Action Committee has a huge amount of power in emergency situations, and in simple terms, the official title is not the prime minister, in fact, he can have the same power as the prime minister. He suggested making yourself look good rather than feeling power-hungry.

Back to the Fatherland Action Alliance, basically, the program operates as a political party. But it is clear that the traditional party-style Fighter Party has failed, so it is almost unsuccessful to form a new party to participate in the national elections, as usual.

And PAS is nothing more than a trick used by Mahathir to try to disguise as it is presented not as a political party but as a movement to unite the Malay community against UMNO. In the traditional way, PAS and BDI cannot join the Fighter Party directly, unless they cooperate in the form of political alliances or through alliances or electoral agreements. It is also a traditional political strategy, with political parties working with each other. In this way, the example of the NLD and PH will repeat itself, and who will be the supreme leader, after all, every party is on the same footing.

But for the Fatherland Action Alliance, since it is "not" a party or coalition, all people and parties can enter under the same umbrella. Although political alliances and action alliances can theoretically be separated, in practice, their differences can also be only a thin line. So, the real difference is to be famous.

Ironically, this umbrella is led by Mahathir. If you think deeply, he wants to bring all ambitious Malay parties to the Fatherland Action Alliance and be led by him. To put it nicely, he is uniting Malay politicians and political parties to overthrow UMNO, and he appears to be very noble.

Rhetorically, PAS is uniting the Malays and is very idealistic, but in reality, any experienced politician would ignore him. That's why you see not many people, especially politicians from UMNO, PAP and Bersatu, paying attention to him. They know that the strength of the Fatherland Action Alliance is no better than that of the Fighters, and unless Mahathir's propaganda resonates with voters and works well, that is, the Malays will attack PA and Bersatu for not participating in uniting the Malays, I don't think the Fatherland Action Alliance will have any impact in the next general election. Therefore, it is not difficult to find that many recent lectures, seminars and conferences have tried to discuss the power of political unity among the Malays in a weak way to win the sympathy of the Malay community.


My conclusion is that every time Mahathir comes up with a new idea it's fun, and I like that because he provides good food for thought. But once you dig deeper, these ideas look good on the surface, but they are difficult to implement in practice. Difficult, not impossible, as I mentioned earlier, if the successful creation of the Unsupported Fatherland Action Alliance is tantamount to not wanting the Malay people to unite, then the Malay electorate will reject these parties.

That's why I say, sounds good, it's actually almost impossible, but it's not absolutely impossible.


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