

Tun Dr Mahathir's Legacy

An Inspirational Learning Experience



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A Commentary by Y.B. Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage Malaysia

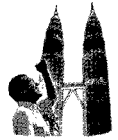
ANOTHER book on Tun Dr Mahathir is always welcomed. This volume will no doubt add another rich perspective to the already considerable materials on our beloved immediate-past premier. Dr Mahathir has been more identified than anyone else in yanking Malaysia from the doldrums of a sleepy backwater to the prosperous nation that it is today. He is an intellectual, a long-distance running Prime Minister. He provides leadership both for 3rd world nations as well as for his countrymen. We know him well for what he believes to be the common good for his nation and all that he holds dear in principle.

Dr Mahathir's 22 years at the helm of his country has brought to fruition what many thought could not be done. His clarity of thinking and his purposeful stress on work ethics plus his unflinching confidence in the Malaysian people have contributed to all that we have today.

I must confess, as I have done in the recent past, we have hardly said or done enough for this Malaysian icon of ours. This work, no doubt, adds another little contribution towards that end. At least this endeavour contributes to the increasing literature on our 4th Prime Minister.

I can count on myself as a very fortunate person indeed for the opportunities of having served the consummate Prime Minister not once but twice within two varying era that make up almost three decades (1974-2003). Despite having opposed him politically for the better half of a decade, he still deemed it fitting to beckon me to serve in his Cabinet in what remained as his last hurrah in government. Only a statesman of quintessential character could do that. Dr M as we used to call him, knows no vengeance and practices zero-sum game in human constriction.

While our congratulations go to the authors, we record our appreciation for another vista of a Malaysian son who has contributed more than we can say Thank You.



FOREWORD

This book has a very simple but very important objective – to inspire young and old, Malaysian or foreigner, to strive for a better quality of life. And the role model to emulate is none other than Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister Y. A. Bhg. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

For this book, *Tun Dr Mahathir's Legacy – An Inspirational Learning Experience* – tells us how just within 22 years of his premiership he transformed Malaysia into a nation of high technology and modernisation and rapid economic development through his farsighted vision and action.

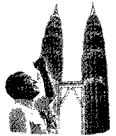
The reader is sure to be inspired by how Y. A. Bhg. Tun Dr Mahathir set about turning his vision into reality step by step, through careful planning despite encountering hardship at times.

It is a simple story of formidable Nation-building. It is a factual narrative of the life of a dynamic man and his vision to make Malaysia a great nation through well-planned social and economic engineering. In fact, it is more than just that. It has the universally appealing and inspiring message that any individual, no matter who or of what status, should not hesitate to speak out or to do something as long as he or she sincerely believes that it is for the good of everyone.

As an educationist for more than half a century both in the governmental and private sector, I feel deeply honoured to be invited to give a foreword to his book which I am convinced will inspire readers to strive for betterment in whatever field they pursue.

I am greatly delighted to give this foreword and I am indeed very proud to be part of the era of Y. A. Bhg. Tun Dr Mahathir's vision of success.

TAN SRI DATO' DR YAHAYA IBRAHIM
PSM, DPMP, JSM, DJN, AMN, PJK, PhD,
Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany



PROLOGUE

I would like to congratulate Krista Education Sdn. Bhd. for its commendable efforts to publish this inspiring book on the fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia. This book would indeed serve as a valuable insight into the life of Y. A. Bhg. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his contributions to this beloved country.

Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), being an education university, welcomes and encourages this effort as it contributes directly to the creation of an educated Malaysia society. Many would agree with us that Y. A. Bhg. Tun Dr Mahathir has done a great deal for this country and it is good to remind ourselves of his contribution through the reading of this book.

Indeed, on 24th August 2004, UPSI has conferred on Y. A. Bhg. Tun Dr Mahathir the Honorary Doctorate in Leadership and Academic Development in recognition of his outstanding contributions especially to the field of education and also to the nation as a whole.

Finally, we are proud to be associated with this book highlighting the Legacy that Y. A. Bhg Tun has given to the younger generation of Malaysians.

DATUK DR. MUHAMMAD RAIS ABDUL KARIM
Vice-Chancellor
Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris



PREFACE

It is with great pleasure and pride that Krista Education Sdn Bhd (Krista) presents this book which is intended to serve as an inspiration and motivation to all readers be they Malaysians or other citizens of the world. Krista is involved in spearheading professional early childhood development activities through the establishment of quality early childhood education centres, through the operations of its institute in providing teacher training and parenting courses, and through the management of centres for children with special needs.

While Krista has been producing books for preschool education all along, it is a welcome change to now publish a book on the Fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia, Y. A. Bhg. Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad. Y. A. Bhg. Tun had been a great Prime Minister for 22 years and he had left a valuable legacy for the young generation of Malaysians. Y. A. Bhg. Tun had effectively put Malaysia on the world map and the younger generation is now well poised to bring greatness not just unto themselves but to their families, culture and their beloved country, Malaysia. It is Krista's belief that this book will stir the spirits of the younger generation and spur them to achieve greater heights. It is also Krista's hope to publish more of such books to highlight inspiring achievements of other great leaders of Malaysia which will be a valuable resource and guidance for all.

Krista would like to extend its gratitude to all who have made the publication of this book possible. Sincere thanks to Y. A. Bhg. Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad for granting Krista the permission to publish this book and for the pleasure of having an insight into his life; to the management and staff of Perdana Leadership Foundation for providing valuable information and pictures relevant to this book; to Y. B. Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage Malaysia for his enlightening commentary; to our beloved Chairman, Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahaya bin Ibrahim who is also the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, for his guidance throughout the production of this book; to Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris for supporting the publication of this book; to John Pillai, former Education Editor of New Straits Times Malaysia and Thomas Chong, Center for Social Innovation Fellow, Stanford University for being partly responsible in editing and contributing ideas that have enhanced this book; to Nawarmani Balakrishnan, Mangayarkarasi Ramachandran, Paramjit Kaur, Zaileeta Md Zain and R. Vishwanath for their inspirational support; to the management and staff of Krista and Institut Mayang; to the authors, Joan Fam Li Hing, Lee Seng Chee and Nawarmani Balakrishnan; and to all others who have contributed in one way or another to the success of this book.

Krista would like to take this opportunity to dedicate this book to the younger generation and it hopes that this Legacy will inspire and instill good leadership qualities that are sought in the future generations. Happy reading!

On behalf of Krista

R. RAJENDRAN
Chief Executive Officer