

# **MAHATHIR MOHAMAD**

**A VISIONARY & HIS VISION  
OF MALAYSIA'S K-ECONOMY**

**Mahathir Mohamad**, one of the most durable and outspoken figures on the world political stage, has been prime minister of Malaysia since July 16, 1981. He first came to prominence in 1969 when he was expelled from Umno, the ruling party, for writing a letter critical of the then-prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman. Before being readmitted to Umno in 1972, he wrote his famous, highly controversial work, *The Malay Dilemma* (1970), which examined the economic backwardness of the Malays, and advocated state intervention in bringing about their rehabilitation. The book was promptly banned in Malaysia. In *The Challenge* (1986), he explodes fallacies and exposes distortions concerning religion, education, democracy, Communism, freedom and discipline, and the concerns of this world and the next. In *A New Deal for Asia* (1999), he reflects on Malaysia's fight for independence and rails against those who blindly worship the free market.

As Malaysia's fourth and longest-serving prime minister, Dr Mahathir has played a pivotal role in the confident march of his people towards Vision 2020, his blueprint for Malaysia's advance towards developed-nation status. Born in 1925, he studied medicine in Singapore, where he met his future wife, Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali. After working as a doctor for the government, he left to set up his own medical practice in Alor Setar, his hometown. In 1974, he gave that up to concentrate on his political career. Dr Mahathir and his wife have seven children and ten grandchildren.

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edited by NG TIEH CHUAN  
with commentaries by DAVID N. ABDULAI



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