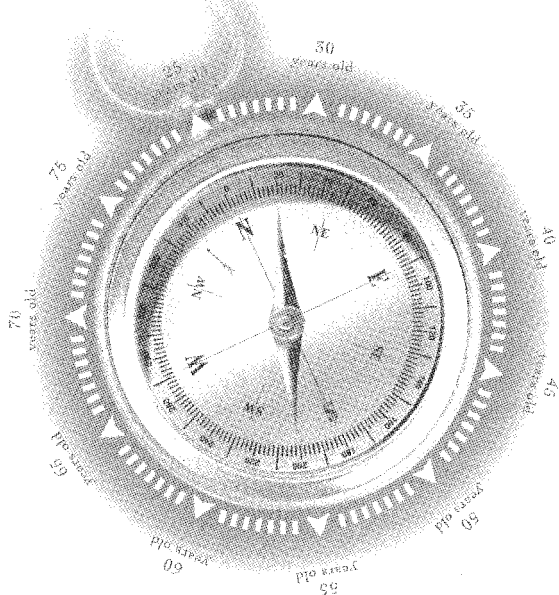


FINANCIAL *freedom*

Your Guide To Lifetime Financial Planning



Edmond Cheah Wong Boon Choy Alex Sito Rajen Devadason



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Financial Planning*



PUSTAKA PERDANA



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FINANCIAL
*freedom**P*reface

Never before in our young country's history have Malaysians been faced with such financially trying times. It's never been tougher managing money.

The recent currency turmoil has in one way or another impoverished all Malaysians. In its wake, it has demolished the dreams of thousands of talented young children of pursuing an overseas tertiary education; injected unnecessary financial hardship into the lives of industrious executives; and decimated the quality of life of retirees by reducing their income and raising the cost of basic necessities.

These times we live in are not pleasant. The sad situations mentioned represent only part of the equatorial 'iceberg' that has breached Malaysia's economic hull and those of surrounding nations. None of us ever wants to concede the possibility of having to face such trying times again. But we can't guarantee that something similar won't rear its ugly head in the future.

The fearful questions within most people are:

- How can I be certain that I will have enough money to educate my children through university?
- Will I be able to maintain my standard of living until and into retirement?
- If I or any other family member is struck down by a life-threatening illness, how will we ensure pulling through without financial hardship?
- If I get retrenched, how will we live and even eat?

You know there is no way to utterly insulate ourselves. We can't ensure that another financial storm doesn't come around and pulverise us again in five, ten, or even twenty years. But if we're prepared, our future will be brighter than it otherwise would be.

Admittedly, the symptoms of pain are heightened right now. But even the best of economic climates cannot ensure prosperity for the individual; a lack of financial preparation can erode income, threaten happy retirement hopes and other reasonable goals through an accident, critical illness or just plain old-fashioned profligate squandering.

Nobody in his right mind plans to fail. But when we fail to plan, that is precisely what our actions lead to – overwhelming, dream-demolishing failure.

So we're here to help you plan. The purpose of this book is to better prepare you for your future.

We don't pretend to have all the answers. But a great deal of thought has been put into the content of this book; the first comprehensive financial planning book tailored to the Malaysian environment.

We hope this tool guides you safely through the sometimes rough terrain - and perhaps even treacherous pitfalls - of your financial future. We believe this book contains guidelines and strategies, which if correctly followed over a long enough period, should help ensure your freedom.

Your *financial freedom*.

Chances are, given your very act of picking up this book, you have enjoyed some level of success in life already. But success in one area does not mean that everything else falls into place simply because we want it to. That's where financial planning comes into its own. Many books have been written on this subject. We have listed some of the very best of these at the end for your continued reading. Unfortunately, most such works focus on the situations prevalent in the West. And while the principles of sound financial planning do not change, their implementation will vary from country to country.

So, to get our message of hope across to as many Malaysians as possible, in as compelling a manner as we know, we've written a wholly-Malaysian financial novel.

As our story builds, you will be guided, step-by-step, up the path of personal financial responsibility and success. All you need to do is read it one chapter at a time, from cover to cover – preferably front to back. If you let them, the contents will revolutionise your life for the better.

Financial Freedom has been fashioned as a tool for education and transformation, not for direct investment advice. In addition to entertaining you, we hope the story structure will make the lessons that much easier to digest.

Each of us is an individual with unique circumstances and needs. So you must first carefully assess your situation and attitudes before embarking on specific steps that will affect your financial well-being. If you are in any doubt over any suggestion found here, do check with an appropriate professional who knows you and understands your specific circumstances.

Depending on the area of uncertainty, this person may be your lawyer, accountant, financial planner, life insurance agent, banker or even remisier.

Also, since situations evolve with time and nobody stays the same for very long, review your financial goals and related state of health at regular intervals – at least once a year. For those of you with Internet access, you may find it useful to access our website at <http://www.klmutual.com.my> for further information on financial planning. But that's for later.

Right now, your journey to financial freedom begins just over the page. We invite you to come with us. After you ...

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