

PROTECTIONISM

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March 31, 2011

By Dr. Mahathir Mohamad

1. Recently someone complained that Malaysians have to pay high prices for cars because the Government is protecting Proton.
2. Actually the high price for imported cars was fixed before Proton to reduce gas-guzzling cars from being imported. Thus cars with big engines are taxed (import duty) by 300%. Other cars are also heavily taxed to reduce import of petrol.
3. When Proton was introduced the price fixed was lower due to lower tax being charged. The buyers profited from the lower price so that those who could not buy a car before could now buy a Proton car.
4. Still the tax on Proton yielded 18 billion Ringgit in government revenue over a 10-year period. This is simply because more people bought Protons who before could not afford to own a car. The rapid growth in the ownership of cars is due to the cheapness of the Proton.
5. Today Proton's share of the market is less than 30%. A lot of foreign cars are being imported because Malaysians are richer now. Despite Mercedes and BMW costing three times more in Malaysia than in Europe, Malaysia is one of the best markets for these huge luxury cars. They buy these cars because they just like them and do not mind the high price. It has nothing to do with protecting Proton.
6. Is the Government doing something that other Governments are not doing? I list below the measures taken by other countries to protect their economy.
7. Singapore : Buyers have to pay a high price for a certificate to import cars.
8. In America US\$74 billion in Government funds were used to bail out automotive companies. (Without this bailout General Motors would close down. Americans would have to buy foreign-made cars).
9. France: Government doled out billions to automakers to keep the automotive industries alive.
10. Spain : Interest free loans were made available by the Government to support local industries.
11. UK : Millions of pounds were given to businesses and banks to prevent them from closing down. Still all British car companies have closed down.
12. Germany : Financial incentives were given to scrap older cars so that people can buy new cars.
13. Italy : Subsidies are given for purchase of "green scooter".
14. Russia : Direct subsidies are given to auto companies and tariffs imposed on used cars to protect industry.
15. China, South Korea : Policies and subsidies are used to protect local automakers.

16. Russia, India and Turkey use import tariffs to protect local industries.

17. China, India, Russia, Vietnam, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil all have tariff barriers. The United States imposed 35% tariff on China-made tyres.

18. The G20 resolved against protectionism but all of them provide protection in various forms for their businesses, contracts and products.

19. So, is it wrong for Malaysia to protect local industries? Actually our protection is minimal.

20. We believe in competition but we are up against countries which protect their industries against foreign products. In Europe standards are raised every year to keep foreign cars out of their markets. The cars and other products we import are cheap because of subsidies and protection by their countries.

21. In America, if there is a slight defect in the product, selling the product in the US market would be stopped. Because one person got rashes from wearing gloves made of Malaysian rubber, all Malaysian gloves were banned.

22. Millions of Toyota's hybrid cars were recalled because one car had defective brakes.

23. We can close down Proton and buy only foreign-made cars. Roughly 50,000 people would be thrown out of work. Their families would be deprived of a bread-winner. Many other industries including component suppliers, transport companies etc will suffer. Economic growth would be effected.

24. If we think that without the need to protect Proton, foreign cars would be cheaper, we are wrong. Without the tax on foreign cars and on Proton cars, Government revenue would be smaller. There would be little money to finance infrastructure, universities, scholarships etc. Generally standards of living could decline. So the Government will have to continue with high taxes for imported cars. It is not Proton which is causing foreign cars to sell at high prices.

56 Comments

By Chop on April 8, 2011 12:45 AM

It's just struck me long time back when i drove along the highway,despite the high numbers of Proton cars on the road,why is it that I noticed it's the expensives cars that's always seems to break downs on the highway?

By andrewtay on April 7, 2011 8:47 PM

Protectionism has brought Proton to its knees. It cannot survive without the government. Its like a child who has been kept in diapers for the rest of its life. Helpless and weak. It lives inside a bubble, kept away from harm but when the bubble pops, it will soon find the harshness of reality.

Every form of protectionism, be it with cars or human, will pay the ultimate price sooner or later. At least a car company can be wound up but for humans, its the inevitability of colonisation. The world one day will soon return to the dark ages as resources are scarce and the human population booming.

When that time comes, no human values will redeem them. Its only hardwork and resilience to ward off competition. Be the best or parish and be forgotten.

Enjoy yourself for now.

By TunTuah on April 7, 2011 1:01 PM

Don't be like britain, over privatisation and no protection to their motor industry. end up all their motor industry gulung tikar.. such as austin, rover, jag, lotus. all belongs to foreigner now. so they can leave britain at anytime.

because of the automative industries is no longer belongs to britain, the engineering courses in britain is also become less attractive. heard a few uni did not run this engineering courses due to less student.because britain require less engineer.

Now britain is more on services industry. may be you are not aware, this services industry is very fragile. when come economic crisis this industry will collapse by itself.

Basically, britain has very less economic fundamental to stand the big wind of economic crisis. they are geared for doom. well may be i am wrong.

compared to germany, their automative industry is very very strong. from this they can create a lot of economic oppurtunity from supplying pin, carpet, glass to the engine itself. This has create a lot of job oppurtunities and the requirement of engineering for new material/ design/product will mushroom. indirectly universities need to produce more engineer to cater for this demand.

Malaysia, we only have proton. we need to protect proton so that the chain of economic due to proton car is not collapse. if collapse, a lot of people jobless and ragut cases will be increased.

in life, Tak semua benda free, you need to pay sometimes. in this case we have to pay for our next generation kesenangan as what was done by our previous generation before.

well i am not alway right, but atleast i am ok to pay for it and it is part of my social obligations. wassalam.

By adik adik on April 6, 2011 9:44 PM

TUN,I RESPECT YOU,AND VERY MUCH SECURE OF HOW UMNO,
MALAYSIA RULING PARTY RULED MALAYSIA.
I DID NOT SEE MUCH OF OUR GOVT TAKING ADVANTAGE,FISTS IT,S PEOPLE.
NO DOUBT LESS CORRUPTIONS AS COMPARED TO MODERATE NATIONS

LIKE,PHILLIPINES,THAILAND.

SINGAPORE THE GOVT DON,T NEED CORRRUPTIONS,
THEY HAVE MADE THINGS LEGAL FOR THEMSELVES.

I,M TOUCH OF HOW JPJ,CURB CONGESTIONS.

BY RULING HEAVY,COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ARE RESTRICTED CERTAIN HOURS IN
A RESTRICTED AREAS.NO CASH INVOLVES.MAKE SENSE.NOT DOLLARS.

IN SINGAPORE,THEY IMPLEMENT ERP,MEANING EVREY RULES IMPLIMENETED
IT,S ABOUT REVENUE MAKING,INSTEAD OF UPHOLDING WHAT RIGHT THING TO
TO PUT RIGHT.VEHICLES THERE PAY SO MUCH,ON ROAD AND ALSO NOT ON
ROAD,DAY PARKING,NIGHT PARKING EVEN AT THEIR OWN HOME.

IT,S 24HR PAYING.

EVEN PAYING THE ERP SO MUCH,THE CONGESTIONS IS AT LARGE.

SO IS IT OF MAKING MATTERS RIGHT,SOLVING PROBLEMS, OR A GREAT
REVENUE.

AND THEY TERM IT OH,IT,S THE LAW.

AND YOU DON,T GO AGAINST THE MAN MADE LAW, YOU GET POORER,TILL FLAT.

By parameswara 2 on April 6, 2011 3:36 PM

Dearest Tun

Sta has got a point there ' look at our useless proton still rebadging lancens after 20 years'.At least when we were rebadging the Sagas in those days the Mitsubishis `were not sold here.We have more pride then.

I think going back to rebadging after coming so far is totally unforgiveable.I think Syed should resign for his lack of creativity and over simplistic leadership learnt from his many good years at Perodua, but a something any form 3 guy could also suggest is the easier and safer way of making money for the vendor supplier.A totally original Inspira may risk not being saleable.No sale, Proton bungkus.Proton bungkus Syed also bungkus.So play safe lah just rebadge an already selling car.Vendor supplier is happy,Syed is happy who cares about sta?

Protectionism should be focussed towards the car industry not the vendor suppliers who are I think are mostly URCs(UMNO related cos).The more we want to protect the car industry the more we should be stringent with the suppliers.Do not protect those who are compromising quality.Get MACC to investigate and punish wrong doers severely as we would traitors.

I love my country very much and I only want Proton to succeed.So protect it by getting rid of those quality compromising parasites if any.Do not forget to replace Syed too for that terrible crime after 20 years.Proton needs someone who loves the country more than his own backside.

Thanks Tun

By Singa on April 6, 2011 1:38 AM

Dear Dr M

Below is an article that appears in today's issue of Singapore's Straits Times written none other by the same author who wrote a book accusing you of corruption. The Straits Times carried the negative article with a half-page caricature of yourself in order to attract readers. He must have tried very meticulously to pinpoint whatever mistakes that he could derive in order to show that your autobiography contains so much inaccuracies and distortions that even a typo error in spelling the name of President Sheares was considered one of the cardinal errors in the book. Singapore's Straits Times certainly has its own hidden and mischievous agenda in getting it published since the sale of your book has reached 40,000 copies after 3 weeks of its launch.

Wassalam

Mahathir Mohamad a polarising figure ?
An Unbalanced and Unreliable Memoir
Barry Wain - Straits Times | April 05, 2011

Former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad has always been a polarising figure. He expressed strong views and adopted contentious policies during his 22 years in office - dividing Malaysians into blind believers or instinctive opponents - and he has continued to do so in retirement since 2003.

The publication of his memoirs will only deepen those divisions. Nearly nine years in gestation, *A Doctor In The House* arrived with a thud: 843 pages - inside hard covers, with a jacket bearing a recent colour photograph of a beaming and youthful-looking author - weighing in at 1.7kg.

In keeping with his theme song, *My Way*, Tun Dr Mahathir, who will be 86 years old in July, uses the occasion to discuss his life and career entirely on his own terms.

He sees no reason to reassess most of the major political controversies associated with him: among them, the dismissal and prosecution of his deputy, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim; the sacking of Lord President Salleh Abas; and the campaign to oust his hand-picked successor, Tun Abdullah Badawi.

He makes an exception of Operation Lalang, which saw the detention without trial of 119 people amid rising ethnic tensions in 1987.

Yet even while conceding that his government's response was 'excessive', he tries to shift the blame to the police for recommending the crackdown.

Dr Mahathir simply brushes aside or ignores much of the specific criticism directed at him and

his ambitious projects over the years, not even bothering to mention some crucial events in which he figured.

A bold leader with big ideas and no time for critics who carp about details, he occasionally peeks in the mirror and recognises reality. Marina, the first born of his seven children, 'turned out to be a lot like me: argumentative, stubborn, opinionated and always believing she is right', he says.

It should also be acknowledged that the book goes some way towards answering one question that has long puzzled political scientists: Why Dr Mahathir, a self-proclaimed 'young Anglophile' at 20, later developed a lifelong, virulent hostility towards British colonialism.

He explains that his political awakening made him realise, 'looking back', that he had been 'brainwashed' to the point where 'I forgot that I was one of the natives', triggering a feeling of humiliation. 'It was then that the decolonisation of my own mind and soul began,' he says.

Dr Mahathir might have been expected to take this opportunity to clear up certain personal issues that have long been the subject of intense gossip and speculation, such as his ethnic origins. Rather, he repeats without comment several stories that circulate about his father's ethnicity and religion.

He then adds: 'I admit that some Indian, or more accurately South Asian, blood flows in my veins, but from which part of the Indian subcontinent my ancestors came I do not know.' Also missing is any admission that Dr Mahathir concealed various important policy initiatives and developments while he led the country.

For example, he verges on the misleading when he writes that 'nothing of significance resulted from' his first visit to the United States in 1984, when he met President Ronald Reagan.

As I revealed in my political biography of Dr Mahathir last year, he approved the innocuous sounding Bilateral Training and Consultation (Bitac) agreement, which was, in fact, a secret security pact. Without informing Malaysians, he threw in his lot with the Americans, agreeing to naval ship visits, ship and aircraft repairs, joint military exercises in Malaysia and close cooperation between the two militaries.

It would also have been fascinating to get an authoritative insider's account of the long-ruling United Malays National Organisation (Umno), whose history has been described by one former minister as 'a mixture of political subtlety and crudeness, ethical practices and greed, fair play and foul... occasionally expressed with sheer ruthlessness'.....more.

(The writer, who is writer-in-residence at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, is the author of Malaysian Maverick: Mahathir Mohamad in Turbulent Times, published by Palgrave Macmillan.)

By AHMAD BADRI on April 5, 2011 7:17 PM

Dear Sir and Che Det bloggers,

My dream cars are Ferrari and Lamborghini, both created by Italian car lovers of the same names. They don't sell very many, but their cars are so very expensive, half of it the cost of the brand, half by the real hardware. Yet they are the dreams of so many around the world, not just me alone. And yes, they break down too, and suffer mechanical failures.

I have also owned Volvos, BMW and Mercedes, and they are quite expensive, but to me affordable. They break down too, and their parts and services are very specialized, which means they are not cheap. But when driving these machines you get a real pleasure which many car lovers can't really explain very well in simple words.

The point is, all cars break down, so stop complaining about Proton cars breaking down. But we get angry about Proton cars breaking down because they are Malaysian cars and as Malaysians we are supposed to get angry with lousy Malaysian manufacturers. And also because we have heard about the management problems Proton had been having especially during the time of that intellectually senile Pak Dol.

Apart from the comfort, performance, safety and other technical and aesthetic features of expensive European cars, there is also the factor of "snob value". This snob value is most useful to be expressed against your former boss, that menyampah nitwit useless idiot who made your life miserable for a long time, or against former colleagues who collaborated with your former boss, who can't go beyond second hand Honda. The Chinese use these expensive cars when getting married for feng shui reasons.

Nevertheless, we hope that all our complains about Proton will make Proton to better themselves, so that one day Proton can be at par with big car names – Toyota, Mazda, Nissan, Honda, Kia, Volvo, BMW, Mercedes, Audi etc, and we can be proud of Proton again. But for now, if you don't have enough money, please buy Proton. Work harder, find more money and you can buy more expensive cars. Believe me, they will break down too.

Owning expensive foreign made cars have the unspoken added advantages that will add up many years to your life, trust me. Nothing beats achieving a dream. Life is meant to be well lived and life well spent. I hope I will have enough money to buy the cars of my dream, the Ferrari and Lamborghini. But when I go the local surau, I'll drive my Proton. Why? Well, you know why.

By kfs on April 5, 2011 6:10 PM

Saya amat menghormati Tun. Saya dah guna 3 proton. Wira, Perdana V6 dan Waja 1.8. Waja 1.8 hampir membangkrapkan saya. Saya tiada pilihan selain menggunakannya. Tak ada orang nak beli. Masalah demi masalah dan memerlukan belanja ribuan ringgit. Saya dah bayar lebihkurang RM 50,000 dari RM 77,000 harga kereta. Nak tahu berapa saya belanja untuk repair ? RM 45,000.

Yang tak tukar cuma body, gear box dan enjin block. Setiap kali saya pergi ke Proton Edar untuk servis dan/atau repair, saya dapati banyak pengguna Proton merungut tentang kualiti.

Apakah Proton tak pernah memantau kereta-kereta yang sudah habis warranti? Atau adakah Proton menganggap bahawa kereta mereka perlu lancar setahun sahaja ? Pemegang pintu kereta lain tahan bertahun-tahun, kereta saya hanya 18 bulan. Komponen lain lebih buruk rekodnya.

Dudah 2 kali saya menulis tentang ini tetapi tiada jawapan dari Tun. Boleh dikatakan dalam tulisan Tun, Tun tidak pernah tackle masalah ini. Kenapa ?

By Shahrarum Ramli on April 5, 2011 3:32 PM

There is this movie called "Bedtime Stories", starring Adam Sandler. It's a nice movie. My son, my wife and I loved it very much. It shows that if you work hard enough, your dream will come true in the end.

There is also a character from the movie that I am constantly being reminded of when reading some of the comments posted here. His name is Sir Buttkiss.

I hope that people will continue to work hard so that one day we can afford to not buy a proton (or perodua), which I am also currently guilty of.

By sudin on April 5, 2011 1:34 AM

Salam Tun.

During the last score the US has established herself as the undisputed & unrivalled grandmaster of hypocrite. They created a list of world order such as human rights, international terrorism, market forces, self defence, all with the intention of having the upperhand to scare other nations, even Russia and China.

The word suspicion will suffice for israel to do a holocaust to Mavi Marmara in self defence, since the brilliant jews claimed cement can become a major component to make explosives!

Saddam Hussein (related to B. Hussein Obama?) was suspected of stockpiling WMD, so israel instructed the US "kill Saddam and also 1 million Iraqi Muslims in self defence of israel" which the US willingly obliged. Thus 'shooting ducks to dead' to 35,000 fleeing Iraqi soldiers, bombing crowded marketplace & overflowing hospitals are all in a days work! The US even allowed their sexy & curvy blondies to teach the world how to enjoy torturing Muslims at Abu Gharib!

When that allround maniac Anwar told Soros "I'm the MOF, take all the share script you need from our banks, sell them and let's us watch Dr. M's looks when the index nosedived from 1200+ to 200+". IMF then told Dr. M, without anybody asking why, "Those are market forces". Fortunately Dr. M retaliated well, way beyond the thinking of the so-called economic experts, to save Malaysia and indirectly helping to rescue the other Asian countries.

After Dr. M's reign, that no quality Pak Dol PM5 & sil team realised that the best shortcut to make Malaysia very successful is to follow Singapura's footsteps, that is being a 'pariah' to the US. However Pak Dol is shortlived, and sil to follow suit. Ikan yu's(kuanyew) wide opened mouth salivating profusely in anticipation to gobble up Malaysia do not become reality.

By masterchief on April 4, 2011 10:41 PM

Tun...Assallam!

I clearly remembered in one of your speech (during our economic crisis in 1998) where you mentioned "Apabila kita di serang musuh dari luar, kita rapatkan barisan kita supaya kita teguh"

Admittedly, our cars are cheaper than those local cars in the foreign land. We must appreciate the Government effort for this,if not,afresh graduate starting work will never be able to afford a new car if solely depending on imported cars. My salute to the governmentfor this. However, approaching towards a Developed Country status, we must work towards improving the quality of our products for local consumption.

Imagine this.. a foreigner bought a proton in his own country (with high quality standards) comes to visit Malaysia and sits in our local proton car....Boy!! He is in for a great surprise!!

My greatest respect for you whom I grew up in your era as PM. Apart from Rasullah SAW, you are next being the person I respect most in this life. Wassallam.

By kfaiz on April 4, 2011 9:35 PM

Salam to Tun,

While I agree that all countries in this world need a certain mechanism to protect their local industry or national interest, it is sad to see that many Malaysian are still very upset and have little confidence in Proton for whatever reasons. My suggestion to Proton is forget the local market,perhaps Proton should concentrate on building cars for international market following international specifications and standards. Compete with the likes of Toyota, Honda, Hyndai or even the so called luxury cars from German. Go and build your factory overseas if you need to (so that those 50,000 workers in Malaysia can go there and work - maybe it'll do them some good and open their eyes a bit).Buy engines from other manufacturers (so what? almost all carmakes are doing it these days/ it's just so expensive to produce one anyway), just focus on

exterior design, safety and other gadgetry. Put Proton cars in every Hollywood movies (do you notice that there is always at least one Prius in many Hollywood movies) and major sporting events.

Knowing Malaysian mentality, I'm sure Proton will win their hearts back. Maybe, if Proton is financially stonger it will help the Government in turn.

Thanks

By sta on April 4, 2011 7:00 PM

15 years ago hyundai and kia were making lousy , fuel inefficient cars, barely better than our protons.

just this year , hyundai has launched the Equus.

a 7 series and S class competitor, with 5 series/E class pricing. using their home made 5 liter v8, and 8 speed gearbox.

now look at our useless proton.
still rebadging mitsubishi lancers after 20 years.

By Jamal on April 4, 2011 3:57 PM

Dear Tun,

Selamat Berbahagia Tun.

The topic of this entry may be about Protectionism...But since you also included Proton, allow me my perspective to this discussion.

I believe the main gripes about Proton are;

1) The issue about Quality. There seem to be much comments on this. We believe Proton are working hard on this negative aspect. Perhaps some in the know can share with us what Proton is doin about improving the quality issues. I personally can see that the latest models far surpasses the older generation model, borh in terms of looks and performance.

2) The issue of why customers in Malaysia have to pay a higher price for the Proton cars as compared to some other countries who import Proton and are able to sell them at lower prices. Again perhaps someone in the know can share with us if this is due to Proton's marketing strategy, the importing countries policies or other factors. Lets not spam Proton for its sake. I personally can see that more Malaysian can now afford cars when before owning a car was like a distant dream...

As for Protectionism...well that another kettle of fish all together..

Proton need to get their act together faster...Tun if need to we should do a Nissan and get a Professional tested and proven CEO (Carlos Ghosn who is not Japanese) to lead Proton.

By Ir. Syahrizan on April 4, 2011 12:23 PM

Dear Tun,

Cakap tak serupa bikin, this is my first reaction to your Proton article.

Ever see any of our leaders drive Proton (other than the official government owned Black Proton Perdana) as their personal ride? Answer is NO. Even if there is, out from those hundreds parliament representative and politicians, I don't think not even one willing to drive the crippling Proton cars (maybe exception of few of less than 1%! As second car though).

They say, "Kepimpinan Melalui Tauladan, Malaysia Boleh (rather TakBoleh), Ubah Gaya Hidup, naik basikal (yes, your best friend PakLah said that) and recently 1Malaysia, Rakyat Didahulukan, Pencapaian Diutamakan (another piece of 'action drama' to blind the eyes and ears of Malaysian folks). You expect the rest of Malaysian to drive the problematic Proton cars and in the same time our leaders (with their so called prime examples) driving their huge Beemers, Mercedes, Maserrati, Porsche (ehem, terbatuk bila sebut Porsche, paham-paham sendiri lah Tun) and all those expensive cars. Heard that some politicians/Datuks are given free APs (correct me if I'm wrong) to own these premium cars?

And US rakyat??? We have to owned some shitty quality cars made from "Tin Milo" manufactured somewhere at corners of the earth namely Tanjung Malim. Slapped with expensive local cars price tags, slapped with 5 to 9 years absurd bank loans, deal with the absurd quality/maintenance issues, slapped again with hideous income tax and 'harga barang naik', don't forget recently "harga minyak" RON97 "naik lagi" (is this a sign of RON 95 going up soon?) and then slapped again for NOT being "A supportive Malaysian towards local products"? After 50 years, we have enough of your crap and Barang Naik government crap.

Sarawak state election will seal the fate of Barang Naik government. The rakyat from East of Malaysia (Sarawak and Sabah) have joined the "Sepak Barang Naik government" club! Let the "cleansing" commence! I say pack your bags and boxes and clear the office for the new government elected by the "rakyat".

End.

By pakpandir08 on April 4, 2011 9:08 AM

but at least can proton fix the power window?

20 years in the industry but still could not have a functional power window would be a shame ...

By Fauzi on April 4, 2011 12:52 AM

Assalamualaikum Tun,

Minta pendapat Tun,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5t6A9wSMWo>

Terima Kasih.

By amin tan on April 3, 2011 8:20 PM

Dear Tun,

For the past 3 day, I have been trying to post some comments in your blog but each time I tried I have been blocked by Malware Virus. Just now, I asked my son to bypass the Isreali or Pakatan Rakyat blockade of your blog. He took 10 minutes to circumvent the virus blockade. This son of mine is a graduate of Imperial College London in BioMedical Engineering. He obtained Msc from King's College London in Intelligence system. Currently he is lecturing in Numerical Methods in UiTM Shah Alam.

amin tan

By amin tan on April 3, 2011 6:57 PM

Dear Tun,

It is heartening and enlightening to read the reasons for protecting our Proton. When we protect local industries, we are protecting jobs and incomes of those in the industry. However, Tun only explained part of the story. There are two issues of contention Tun did not explain.

Firstly, Tun said we intended to tax big cars only up to 300%. I beg to disagree. Our small c.c. cars are more expensive than in England. Brand new car of 1000 c.c. on the road we can get for 5000 pounds in England which is equivalent to roughly rm25000. Similar car costs around rm40,000, the Iswara or proton saga, in Malaysia. Generally, people in England earn more than the people of Malaysia and they have higher purchasing power than people in Malaysia. Small cars is a necessity for most people in Malaysia because public transport is not comprehensive and efficient. This transfer of income from average citizens to the government is indeed a burden to the poor. On top of the high price, the interest rate is exorbitant, at least 3 times higher than that in England. We are supposed to be a muslim country, but our interest is very Jewish.

The most untenable discrepancy is AP. Bluntly, AP is a gross abuse and it amounts to hugh cash hand out to certain individuals and definitely unfair. It amounts to corruption by the government, an unmitigated crime disliked and hated by most thinking citizens of malaysia. It shows badly on the government that introduces the current AP system to make certain individuals filthily rich at the expense of government revenue which otherwise, the billions could have been utilized to upgrade public transport. Small unconnected Bumiputra car traders are not getting any AP at all.

The government is still perpetuating this illegal cash hand out in such huge amount that it is day light robbery of the government revenue. If this huge amount of money instead is utilized as scholarships to deserving poor students, it would have endeared the people to the government. The giving of AP is like openly stealing the money from the government.

This is one clear instance where the government is like an ostrich, burying its head in the sand and offering its backside to the opposition, some of whom are known sodomites.

amin tan

By joehenry on April 3, 2011 2:36 PM

Tun, I came from a poor family. My father was a car salesman and before the inception of the Proton project, he had to hop from car company to company like UMW Motors, Tan Chong and other companies selling Toyota, Nissan, Daihatsu, Mercedes and many other brands from time to time. Time was bad as car sales were hard to come by until 1985 when my father was among the very first batch of salesmen to be invited to join EON and my family was able to enjoy a better living as the sales of Protons were brisk and when I did my tertiary studies from 1986 to 1990, my father was able to pay for my expenses from the savings he made from the commissions he earned from Proton and from my loan from Kok Foundation, to both of whom I am indebted deeply. I am not interested to debate on the suitability of protectionism either for esoteric thrill or to feel trendy to beckon on the onslaught of globalization or the foreign industrialists under the cloak of fair trades like a hard up for money whore with a pair of unfolded arms to welcome her clients or to play to the gallery of people like the "have-gun-will-travel" Barry John "Wayne", the rapid fire crackpot. I only felt compelled to state the above for otherwise I would not be able to fend off the accusation that I am an ingrate.

By Hajar on April 3, 2011 1:00 PM

Dearest YAB Tun,

I also believe that there's nothing wrong for the Government to PROTECT PROTON. It's like parents protecting their child. It's so natural.

I am proud to be able to contribute to the country by driving a Proton car. It's ok to pay for something that will benefit the country. At least I am supporting our automotive industry and that's the least I can do as a Malaysian citizen.

Thanks so much Tun for your BRILLIANT IDEA AND VISION.

*** May Allah SWT bless Tun & family ***

By sudin on April 3, 2011 3:05 AM

Salam Tun.

When the Japanese cars first entered the American market in early 1960s, the US carmakers dismantled all parts of every Japanese car model and made a stunning discovery; Japanese cars are basically motorcycles on 4 wheels! (Arthur Hailey's "WHEELS")

The Japanese however have 2 distinct advantages:

1. Their cars were proven to be cost & fuel saving.
2. Patriotism. They did not stop the US & European cars competing for Japanese market, but they just refused to buy them! The same patriotic sense were evident to all Japanese expatriates/diplomats throughout the world.

Next, the Japanese just concentrated on improvement and customer satisfaction, which eventually made them a world leader and this has created the wrath of US who retaliated by introducing protectionism (the hypocrite!).

In contrast, Dr. M's grand idea on Proton did not earn a single encouragement, with MOF's KuLi leading the smear campaign. Nevertheless, Proton was born.

The Malaysian oppositions & anti-Mahathir morons are not interested that Proton has earned RMtrillions saving on foreign exchange, provide jobs and other related business opportunities, because all that they care is Malaysians must take note of their "we are the tong kosong club, please hate us" grouses.

Note the disparity shown by Malaysians toward Proton as compared Japan's Toyotas & Hondas:

1. T'ganu showered Mercs to their excos, DBKL tried to hide the Volvos accorded to the department heads.
2. Affordable Malaysian companies/individuals/alibabas insisted that Proton Limo/Executive/Perdana don't have 'ummp'h' to enable them to show-off their extravagant.
3. Pak Dol 'no quality' PM5 was most upset when Dr. M interfered just after he finalised the list of potential buyers for Proton's public auction!!
4. Ingrates such as Ir. Syahrir never feel tired with the non-stop & same repetitive negative remarks on Proton (memalukan engineer aje).

Proton must take drastic measures and sack the irresponsible QA/QC personnel, and appoint

'kubakoya'(31/3/11,11:39am) as the new QA/QC director. Kesian lah sikit kat Ir. Shahrizal tu, dah bebuih mulut dengan komplien tapi takde tindakan!

By Azhar85 on April 3, 2011 1:12 AM

Assalamualaikum Tun...

Tun..saya sokong dengan Tun..kadang kala untuk menjaga masa depan anak bangsa kita..sesuatu perkara mestilah di kaji dahulu sebelum bertindak...walaupun pahit untuk ditelan...

Sekarang kita boleh lihat berapa banyak syarikat kepunyaan orang Melayu atau bumiputera di Malaysia ini..terlalu sedikit kalau nak di bandingkan dengan syarikat swasta yang majoritinya dipimpin oleh kaum bukan Melayu atau bukan Bumiputera...

Saya ambil contoh syarikat swasta di Pulau Pinang..pihak pengurusan saja saya boleh katakan 90% kaum bukan Melayu atau bukan bumiputera dan mungkin hanya 10% sahaja kaum Melayu atau bumiputera....itu kiraan saya secara rawak...itu hanya kemungkinan..mungkin lebih dari 90% kaum lain di syarikat swasta tersebut berbanding kaum melayu atau bumiputera..

kalau ada kaum Melayu atau bumiputera sekali pun..mereka tidak mampu bertahan di dalam syarikat swasta yang mempunyai persaingan yang sengit..dan tekanan dari pihak pengurusan seperti diatas..

Jadi bagi saya, di mana lagi syarikat yang membolehkan anak anak Melayu berteduh dan mencari rezeki dan belajar cara untuk menguruskan syarikat kalau bukan di syarikat syarikat GLC seperti Proton.

Bagi saya, kalau mereka itu (kaum bukan melayu) boleh menjaga dan mengekalkan kuota majoriti atau hak mereka di syarikat syarikat swasta, mengapa kita tidak boleh berbuat demikian. Biarlah kaum lain nak menuduh saya perkauman di sini sebab saya sudah muak dan meluat dengan dasar tutup mata atau buat buat tidak ada masalah dengan dasar perkauman di Malaysia ini.

Ya Tun, memang saya menyokong slogan "1 Malaysia" yang di laung laungkan oleh Dato Seri Najib Tun Razak, mantan Perdana Menteri kita yang ke-6, tetapi ada sesetengah di kalangan kita rakyat Malaysia terutama bangsa tersebut hanya berpura berpura menyokong slogan itu tetapi pada dasarnya amat membenci slogan itu. Kalau tidak masakan terjadi masalah masalah peniaga di P.Pinang. Orang kata cinta itu tidak akan berputik kalau kita hanya bertepuk sebelah tangan.

Jadi bagi saya, orang Melayu di Malaysia perlu sedar akan keadaan ini. Jangan nak jaga periuk nasi sendiri, periuk nasik bangsa sendiri dihapuskan demi kepentingan diri. Bangsa lain hanya mampu ketawa melihat telatah kita mengutuk syarikat yang majoritinya mempunyai bangsa kita sendiri.

Mereka ini lebih suka GLC di hapuskan supaya tiada lagi Melayu/Bumiputera cerdas pandai dapat menguruskan syarikat. Jadi lebih senang mereka hendak memonopoli dan menyerang

institusi politik dan ekonomi kita di masa akan datang. Fikir fikirkan lah masa depan anak anak dan cucu cicit kita. Mereka itu amat memerlukan GLC dan kerajaan untuk membantu mereka di kala ekonomi Malaysia sedang dikuasai oleh bangsa asing.

Jangan fikir diri sendiri sahaja. Banyak lagi kaum Melayu/Bumiputera yang tidak bernasib baik dan masih memerlukan bantuan kerajaan dan syarikat GLC seadanya. Fikir sebelum bertindak..itulah jawapan saya kepada saudara saudara saya sekalian.....terima kasih Tun kerana sedarkan saya tentang perkara ini....

P/S:

Kalau kaum lain kata..bangsa Melayu masih memerlukan tongkat untuk berjaya..saya kata..mereka pun diberikan tongkat cuma bukan kerajaan yang memberikan tongkat tersebut kepada mereka atau mereka sudah lupa atau buat buat lupa dengan tongkat yang diberikan oleh kerajaan kepada mereka sebelum mereka dapat tongkat dari tempat lain.

Bangunan mana yang mampu berdiri teguh sebelum diberikan simen dan bata untuk di jadikan tiang. Walaupun bangunan tersebut telah siap sekali pun, bangunan itu masih memerlukan penyelenggaraan sekiranya rosak atau perlu di naik taraf. Bagi GLC, kerajaan lah tempat untuk menyelenggarakan syarikat tersebut. Bagi syarikat swasta atau MNC mereka mempunyai pelabur luar untuk menyelenggara syarikat mereka. Tidakkah itu "Fair & Square" wahai kaum bukan saudara ku...

By LeeCampwin on April 3, 2011 12:52 AM

Dear Tun,

You and your family are driving Proton cars or Imported cars?
Because a lot of Malaysian peoples saying that your family double standard. Your family driving only luxurious foreign car like Porches, Jaguar..... Because your family despise low quality locally made Proton car.

Thanks.
Best regards,
Malaysian People.

By checker on April 3, 2011 12:52 AM

Salam Tun & fellow bloggers,

To criticise is easy and cheap but to have a constructive criticism need knowledge and that what a few commentor portrayed themselves... lack of knowledge but more based on emotion. Taking plus & minus, it is a fair picture that make proton proud. Compared proton to other cars in the industry, we have to accept the fact proton is still realtively, young. What they need to do is not

to sit still but to innovate & develop. Proton despite a few negative comment should be a national pride. But people like Lionelchee who definitely must have other personal problem, pick proton to drown his frustration by writing such creative comments. He should not only complain but complain loudly he must, through all available media. Because that was NOT done I wonder whether what he described was true or just his imagination.

All in all I wish to say that we Malaysian should be proud of having Proton and feel blessed but not to completely run it down. Emulate the Japanese & Korean for their patriotism and national pride that lead to their success. That should be the least that everyone should have, NATIONAL PRIDE.

By samuraimelayu on April 3, 2011 12:13 AM

SALAM KASIH DAN SAYANG
AYAHANDA RAKYAT TUN
Izinkan,

...

BE PROUD of what one has, and not compare with what others have.

Dear Tun Mahathir and Tun Hasmah

We are very proud of you [and PROTON also. We have another besides the Satria], Live Long And Prosper.

Best wishes

ALPHA TANGO And Family.

Sdr. ALPHA TANGO..we TANGO 2 with your comments..

Have a nice weekend with the family.

ALFATIHAH, AMIN

By zaman on April 2, 2011 11:37 PM

Salam Sejahtera Tun.

Jangan hiraukan manusia sebegini Tun, orang seperti ini mana-mana pun komplain.

Kalau tak buat kereta mereka kata kita mundur dalam teknologi pembuatan kenderaan.

Satu saja ungkapan saya kepada mereka ni, HATI BUSUK, Suka sangat melihat Melayu dan Malaysia mundur.

Saya telah menggunakan kereta Proton bertahun tahun, sileh berganti, tak ada masalah pun. Agaknya yang pakai proton yang ada masalah ni ganas sangat kot.

Sekurang kurangnya tak pernah pun Proton di panggil balik seperti kereta Eropah dan Jepun.

Tak Tau lah Tun manusia berhati busuk mana mana ada Tun. Jangan hiraukan mereka.

Terima kasih Tun, May Allah Bless You.Amiin

By al-Din on April 2, 2011 10:47 PM

In this fast changing world that affect our daily life and knowledge-base has left people ignorant of many things. World views need to change. Games people play getting complex. To stay on top if not in the pecking order the end is more important than the means.

Ignorance led us to say that we do not need protectionism or subsidy. That is what ill-intended parties drum up to confuse us but they themselves do otherwise. We are to be blamed if we failed to strategize and counter their economic psych-war. There is no end to cunning.

By che set on April 2, 2011 10:40 AM

Salam sejahtera Tun dan seisi keluarga yang dikasihi,serta juga semua para pejuang Che Det.

Ramai warganegara Malaysia berhati busuk kepada negara sendiri.Mereka bangga bersikap demikian,kononnya merekalah warganegara yang bijak.Ramai juga dari mereka ini berada dalam jabatan kerajaan,amat malang sekali.Jika inilah sikap mereka,maka sebenarnya mereka ini hanyalah warganegara pada kad pengenalan sahaja,bukannya di hati nurani.Mereka bukan rakyat sejati,mereka adalah musuh dalam selimut yang tidak berselimut lagi.Golongan ini tidak ada negara sebenarnya.Mereka ini tidak sesuai mendiami negara membangun seperti Malaysia ini,patutnya mereka pergi ke negara maju sepertimana yang mereka idam-idamkan.Golongan ini hanya akan merosakkan masa depan negara.Politik terlalu memberi muka kepada mereka.Jangan lupa kuasa sebenar adalah kami yang akan mempertahankan tanah ibu pertiwi ini hingga ke titisan darah terakhir.

By Brady on April 2, 2011 9:17 AM

Dear Dr Mahathir,

Sorry, this time I disagree with some of your mentioned ideas.

You have mentioned that cars are heavily taxed to reduce import of petrol.

The question is why the government wants to reduce petrol imports? Answers are obvious such as cost, environmental issues...etc.

The question follows, so what did the government do to reduce Petrol usage & what infrastructure the government have developed?

The obvious answer is building more highways and roads which caused the killing of many Malaysian because of fatal accidents, which have been sky rocketing in the past years. In addition the highway infrastructure have forced people to pay more money & put more financial pressure on low & medium income Malaysians because of the expensive tolls the government is charging.

The Malaysian government ignored developing & financing public transport till the government realised that the population in Klang valley will be 10 million by 2020 which suddenly makes the government decide to build new rail system to relief the pressure. In other words, the government acknowledged the fact that using personal cars will paralyse the transport in Malaysia and affect the economy growth.

With the absence of government investment on public transport, Malaysians have no choice but to rely on personal cars to reach their workplace.

If reliable public transport is available and developed by the government, 50,000 Malaysians will not be thrown out of work. This can be seen in many developed cities in the world, like in the UK, Germany, Australia...etc.

Developing public transport can bring more benefits to the country & Malaysians than taxing imported cars for many reason:

First, public transport will bring money to the government.

Second it will reduce significantly green house gas emission and protect environment.

Third it will reduce importing petrol.

Fourth it will reduce the terrible traffic jam which caused a lot of stress and accidents to Malaysians, and most importantly it will significantly reduce the fatal road accidents and protect people life.

So why the Malaysian government continued to tax imported cars & not investing on public transport (which has much more advantages than importing cars)? The obvious answer is there are some top government officials benefiting from importing cars & making significant fortune. Those officials are holding cars import licences & their whole aim is to make more money. In addition, their aim also to make Proton cars fails so that it will not compete with the imported cars.

Proton cars overseas (in some countries) are soled at least 25% cheaper than Malaysia & exported Proton cars quality are much better quality than Proton cars sold in Malaysia.

By rasfanrahimon April 1, 2011 11:32 PM

Q : Why is the government protecting PROTON?

A : Why not?

By motorsportuniversitymalaysia on April 1, 2011 7:55 PM

Tun,

I was fortunate enough to be a speaker at the ASLI Automotive conference in KL. I was on stage with Tengku Mahaleel and your son Dato Mokhzani.

Tengku Mahaleel invited some friends, and decided he would not only moderate the session, but also he would become a speaker.

He said how cheaply one can enter Motorsports at a grassroots level.

Personally, he had borrowed his grannies car, added a guard underneath and drove it around his family estate (Not residential, rather agricultural).

I politely kept quiet, I had no mike. But I must say, when I first came to Malaysia in year 2000 (working for Lotus Engineering) the one thing that was far more expensive than anything in Europe or America was cars.

Even second hand cars were unbelievably expensive.

I realise I was sharing the stage with two very wealthy gentlemen, how a normal working Malaysian can buy a 5 year old car on an eight year loan and then race it, particularly in a Rally is beyond me.

Grass roots for some people is very different from others.

I don't come from a privileged background, so obviously this colours my view.

Most people need cars just to shop, work and get their Kids to school. For others they are a luxury and a hobby.

Having said that, I think the skills and technology that come with Motorsports should be nurtured and taught widely.

John Mansfield

By mok9929 on April 1, 2011 3:24 PM

yes, true indeed....i hope this answers the question posted by the inquirer/complainer.....and if still not satisfied, please dont stay here anymore.....go migrate somewhere else (which i'm sure you'll not welcome too!)

By azmanmdz on April 1, 2011 2:08 PM

Assalamualaikum Tun,

No doubt about protecting our business as others also protect theirs. 100% agreed. I support the vision to have our very own cars and technology. I have several locally produced cars like Proton and Peroduas. I think our complain most is about the shabby work and the quality of our own product.

We should attain certain standards. The nation is not young any more. We MUST and constantly remind the consumers not to compromise with quality and standards. That is the pride of any nation.

Allow me to relate one report in Australia many many years ago where consumers boycotted locally produced cheese because the cheese company exported a higher quality cheese.

Protection yes, No to sub-standards

Terima Kasih dan salam sejahtera Tun

By parameswara 2 on April 1, 2011 11:06 AM

Dearest Tun

1-Is it so hard to ensure quality in our local cars?Not hard at all if there is a political will of our one Malaysia Najib.A true independent audit on quality can be done from time to time.But if Najib is still the I help you you help me guy now that will surely not help.

2-What if the component supplier happen to be owned in proxy by this powerful UMNO chap or that powerful MCA chap that our Syed himself cannot do anything about unless of course he wants to be sacked like Tengku Mahaleel?To maximise profit you must reduce the cost and the cheapest of cost is of course the low quality made in China inputs in these components.

3-To prove to you about the quality of our Malaysian cars all you've got to do is just station yourself near the Toll Plazas and observe the people who would rather open their door instead of unwinding their window screens to pay their toll.

4-Majority I believe will be owners of Malaysian cars of both makes Proton or Perodua 5 years onwards whose auto window screen operator has already malfunctioned and become unpredictable,it works as and when it wishes.

5-Both of my Peroduas bought brand new share the same problem,one is now a 8 year Kenari and the other 5 year Kelisa.The latter just developed it very recently.

5-My sons have lived with the problem though. Not really a big deal as they have now learnt to accept the Malaysian mediocrity as a way of life.'What do you expect this is a Malaysian car,so don't worry be happy.At least the engine still work..lets count our blessings'.They would further remind me 'the minds on its own can make a heaven of hell or a hell of heaven...'

Thanks Tun

By Alpha Tango on April 1, 2011 7:16 AM

Tun

Your site has some serious malware / virus.
Please have someone look into it ASAP.

Thank you
ALPHA TANGO

By Alpha Tango on April 1, 2011 7:14 AM

Dear Tun

When reading the NST's Cars Bikes & Trucks, there would always be at least a comment by a reader complaining about being deprived of buying a non-National car because of the so-called protectionist policy favoring PROTON. We find this rather annoying.

I have traveled to most parts of the world repeatedly and staying in countries and cities for a few weeks each time I visit. In my line of work then, I had to study and know the local government and business policies as well as the peoples' cultures, ethics, etc. One would be amazed at their high cost of living, high prices of necessary goods [foodstuff and groceries] and exorbitant cost of luxury products. My conclusion is that even though I love visiting these countries and staying there for a few months, I do not relish living there.

This is because after considering everything, Malaysia is like "Heaven on Earth", probably with the exception of its hot and humid weather ! But then, an American friend once said "You cannot have everything".

When I was in Seoul, Pusan and other South Korean cities, the only non-Korean cars were the odd Mercedes-Benz and Lincoln Continentals. Odd because they were very few, and I was told by the local populace, such cars are owned by conglomerates or the gangster chieftains !

I am sorry to say but it is also similar in Japan, albeit with more choices of foreign cars but still at very exorbitant prices.

The protectionist policy in Indonesia left us with no choice but for Protons to be used as taxis [I do not know of the current situation with Proton there now]. Yet, a lot of Indonesian-assembled cars are allowed into our country.

The same goes for Thailand although Protons are now "freely" available but only recently. Almost all pick-ups and some passenger cars sold here are imported from Thailand. People saying Protons are expensively-made for sale into those countries are gravely mis-informed.

I believe Sri Lanka does not have local assembly. But to give an indication, Protons sold there cost over 3 times more, with hire-purchase interest rates at an average 12 % flat annually and limited to a repayment period of 4 years. BTW, their fuel is over 3 times more than ours ! I have to say that the ordinary Sri Lankans must be very rich to own these cars.

What Tun says about the other countries are true, I have been to most of those countries and especially familiar with their foreign import policies.

To those who gloat, saying things are better [and cars are cheaper] in other countries, there are many options available to them.

Granted cars sold in Britain are relatively cheap. But then, they no longer own any British car marques. Tata owns Land Rover, Bentley is under Mercedes-Benz, Rolls-Royce is by BMW and etc. Lotus is ours [a former colony !]. For Protons to be saleable in UK and Australia, its FOB prices have to be very competitive in order to "overcome" the import duties and local taxes imposed there.

Under Tun's forward-looking vision, leadership and many other positive and favorable attributes, we cannot forget that we have benefited a lot.

Under its present management, the quality and beauty [especially with the Waja, Gen2, Persona] of Protons have improved tremendously. As testament to its build quality, the Proton Satria 1.3 Manual which I bought for my eldest son when he got into UTP as a Petronas scholar some 9 years is still performing admirably. "BAMbee xxx" [the only BAMbee in UTP] was then used by his 2 younger siblings immediately after they received their driving licenses and is still being used daily. With proper, regular servicing, the Satria still does not even need a top-overhaul !!

Malaysia is still "maturing" and needs to maintain its current business and automotive policies to protect her interests. So long as the playing field is still not level, we also must play by our own rules - Malaysian rules.

We now have more choices in cars, both foreign and domestic. Bottom line is that if one has the money and ability, go for the BRABUS. If not, keep quiet and just get the PERODUA. One should buy within one's means. Likewise, one cannot go to ARMANI's and tell them to lower its price because one wants to buy an ARMANI jacket !!

BE PROUD of what one has, and not compare with what others have.

Dear Tun Mahathir and Tun Hasmah

We are very proud of you [and PROTON also. We have another besides the Satria], Live Long And Prosper.

Best wishes

ALPHA TANGO And Family.

By Shaharum Ramli on April 1, 2011 2:06 AM

Sorry. I made a mistake in my earlier comment. The price of proton in bahrain was 4.5 thousands dinars, not 45 thousand dinars.

By Shaharum Ramli on April 1, 2011 1:43 AM

I just returned from Bahrain. I had been staying there for two and a half years, during which I bought and used an imported car. As the cost of petrol is very cheap over there (~RM0.60/l), the car I used had quite a big engine (3.7 l). Had I bought this car in malaysia, it would have been 3

times the price i bought in bahrain. Petrol in malaysia is also 3 times the price in bahrain. Over there, this car is seen as a family car. Mothers drive their children to school and soccer practice in this car. But in malaysia it is seen as an exclusive luxury car. It is a luxury car because i've seen people sit proudly on the passenger seat while being driven around by their chauffeurs.

There was a proton showroom in bahrain. They sell waja and gen2 models, both at the same price. The price was even cheaper than the family car that I had. It was 45 thousand bahraini dinars (this roughly translates to RM36 thousand). Nearly half the price that proton is selling the same models to the malaysians in their own country. But i discovered this a little too late as my contract has already ended and i was about to leave bahrain. If i had more time i would have bought a brand new proton in bahrain and bring it back to malaysia (tax free for returning malaysian expats). I could have then sold it back to the malaysians in malaysia at a handsome profit.

By anak kampung talang on April 1, 2011 12:25 AM

Nothing wrong with Proton in fact without Proton many of us will be without cars. Now, 'cos of Proton many houses having more than one car. In some cases there are more cars than the number of people in a house. And we know that the European countries are also very protective and won't allow not only Protons but other brands from Asia including China and Japan to invade their market.

Proton models have improved so much as compared to the first model. The country need Proton.

By Abdullah Chek Sahamat on March 31, 2011 10:23 PM

I always believe, and I have written in my blog @abchek.blogspot.com, ie don't push Mahathir to the corner. He definitely will crush you to the wall.

(2) Tun, facts prevail. Your Nation Building interest surpassed all those shallow minded criticism. What wrong with protecting our interest? Is it bad to fence up your home, so that the thieves and robbers can't just walk in free?

(3) Please don't always dance to academic notions. Worst if we being too much influence by especially the West. What is that so great about Free Market, if the proponents are the only one who benefited. Why only attacked Proton, why not the same applied to soya bean, sun flower oil, corn oil? Dare the West openly make their market free for oil palm oil inflow?. If they dare, then we can stop subsidizing Proton!

By musato on March 31, 2011 8:00 PM

Assalamualaikum Tun.

Arghh...Tun sembang je lebih.Kalu Proton tak kena protek mane saya nak beli motor moden as dengan instalment rm105,kurang rm35 dari motor EX5?

Sebab Proton kena protek la ramai orang yang tak mampu boleh beli kereta.

Kalu tak mau saya pi raya rumah Tun tempoh hari?Arghh...Tun jangan nak sembang la...

Terima kasih Tun.

By retomanic on March 31, 2011 7:48 PM

Salam tun..

Somehow, there are reporting your website as a potential threat to computer, as soon as I upgrade my Mozilla Firefox. And they seem to be a problem with staying in your website. An adobe form keeps on coming out, once you click ok, the site restarts. Thus, I think your site might've been hacked.

Take care Tun.

Still missing you a lot. (And my mom too)

By Lionelchee on March 31, 2011 4:44 PM

Dear Tun,

Thanks for your enlightenment. I would like to relate my story when I got my new 1.5GL Proton Wira about 9 years ago. The car cost me about RM52k. My wife was excited and we waited for the brand new car to be delivered to our house. The salesman passed the key to my wife and my wife test drove the vehicle. The whole car was shaking and we believed it was the problem with the tyres. We returned the car and had the car back within 2 days. My wife took the car to the petrol station to fill up the tank. Unfortunately the petrol gushed out the moment she tried to fill the tank. The car was again taken to the authorised workshop and they found the mechanism in the petrol tank faulty. We waited for a week for the replacement of the tank. A week later, we found the sunshade was not working and again we have to send the car back to the workshop. Within a period of 3 months, the temperature meter, hand brake indicator and rain water started to seep into the boot of the car. During that period we have made numerous visits to the workshop and they changed the dashboard. As for the rainwater problem, I drilled a hole through the floor board of the boot. I gave up drying up the boot every time it rains. For the price of RM52k, this was the most expensive car in the world if we compare the value against the quality. After six months of using the car, I bought myself a Japanese car. Until today, this Japanese car is still serving my family with trust and reliability. As for the Proton Wira, my family use it as a spare when we send our Japanese car for servicing. We dare not take the Proton Wira for long drives because one may never know when it will break down.

By sivarajah arasu on March 31, 2011 4:32 PM

You dont have to go the long and roundabout way to maintain/raise government revenue.Just stop all the corruption of the polititians,especially of the ruling UMNO and you will be surprised by how much will be saved.The duties on cars,or whatever is needed to maintain government revenues will be min iscule by comparison!Whatever you have stated of the other countries may

be true but do they have corruption on such a massive scale as in Malaysia amongst the administrators, politicians and those in power? No doubt there is corruption at the lower levels of society but the quantum is miniscule compared to those in power. Do something about it and you will find all your answers there!

By HBT on March 31, 2011 3:09 PM

Ayahanda Tun,

1. Not only Proton Group benefits, those AP importers also benefit from earning by earning more revenue before tax to run their automotive trading business by marking the imported cars' unit price higher.
2. Why these people complained?
3. They complained because they like to talk rubbish, and they assumed all of US like to listen to craps so that they can get lobby costs or be lobbied by some big guns.
4. Furthermore, by talking rubbish, they have nothing to lose because they prefer to listen to rubbish may be due to some break down in their personal lives, contohnya berhutang banyak.
5. Even media publishers loves rubbish writing just to 'tangkap muat' so that their essays look long and their papers look thick and worth buying with the price of RM1.30 - RM1.50 only, efficiency in cost and revenue in negative zone because people deny rubbish reading?
6. News on Anwar has made their circulation broke record in the past, but not today because we have other material to read.
7. Anwar is good in rubbish politicking through Reformasi, not Transformasi, and this kind of politicking is oledi outdated since 1998, did he do it, does it matter?

Good day, Ayahanda Tun.

By Jo on March 31, 2011 2:42 PM

Salam,

What an amazing lesson of economics in a nutshell. However, only one who is totally oblivious to what's really going on in the real world would accept it as the truth.

By khusyairi on March 31, 2011 1:38 PM

What people feel sad is not only about tax structure in Malaysia. It's about Proton policy & strategy which move backward.

After introduce Proton Gen2, Proton said they are in 2nd generations where they design their own car from scratch to the final products. That why that car name Gen2. Although that car not a perfect car, but actually they make Malaysian feel proud with their own product. Mean that Proton not copy or just rebadged other car anymore.

However, recently after govt protection for more than 25 years; Proton move backward in term of their business strategy. They make "collaboration" with Mitsubishi to make Inspira. Unfortunately, this so called "collaboration" just a rebadged of Mitsubishi Lancer. It's not about transfer technology how to make engine or transmission. In other word it mean a copy. We compare with Lancer; there is no development, it just cosmetics change (bumper).

Last month, Proton make agreement with Nissan to make new Perdana. Unfortunately, it will be a rebadge Nissan Fuga.

Yes, Mitsubishi Lancer & Nissan Fuga are good car. But it being design by Malaysian. That's why Malaysian sad.

In term of Proton cars quality. It already improve but still not on par with Japanese car (even as a rebadge car). For an example many Proton Inspira had defect compare to Lancer. as a prove we all can see in Inspira & Lancer club forum; where total car complains in Inspira forum since launch more or less same with Lancer forum although Lancer had been there since 4 years ago in market.

Car tax structure in Malaysia could be lower further & rearrange to help rakyat. In Langkawi & Labuan, Proton Inspira sell price is higher than Mitsubishi Lancer. Is it not fair for rakyat to pay higher price for local product.

By Rimba Emas on March 31, 2011 1:19 PM

SALAM BUAT TUN BERDUA MOGA DIRAHMATI ALLAH S.W.T

1) SEMUANYA TERPULANGLAH KEPADA TUAN PUNYA YANG MENCIPTA KERETA INI. KALAU DIA RASA HARGA INI BERPATUTAN DAN ADA ORANG YANG MEMBELINYA TERUSKANLAH. BIASALAH SEMUA ORANG AKAN KATA MAHAL WALAU PUN WANG TELAH DIKELUARKAN KERANA TANGGUNGANNYA YANG TERPAKSA DIHADAPI TERUTAMANYA KALAU BERHUTANG.

2) TETAPI NAK KATA ORANG YANG KATA HARGANYA TINGGI SALAH TIDAK BOLEH JUGA KERANA RESIKO YANG TERPAKSA DITANGGUNG SEMASA TEMPOH BERHUTANG.

3) SEMUANYA KENA ADA SIFAT RAHMAH. MAKSUDNYA SESUATU PERKARA YANG MEMUDAHKAN ADALAH JALAN YANG DAPAT MELARISKAN JUALAN. ADAKAH 'MURAH' SATU PERMINTAAN YANG SALAH ?. MURAH ADALAH SATU SIFAT YANG ADA PADA ALLAH S.W.T. TERUTAMA MURAH DALAM BENTUK PERCUMA DAN MAHAL PADA PAHALANYA.

4) MURAH DAN MAHAL BERGANTUNG KEPADA KADARNYA. BAGI UMAT ISLAM KADAR YANG DITETAPKAN DALAM AL-QURAN ADALAH YANG BENAR. SEBALIKNYA YANG TIDAK MENGIKUTNYA ADALAH KEUNTUNGAN YANG BERLEBIHAN YANG AKAN MENJEJASKAN PAHALA DAN DOSA.

5) BILA SESUATU YANG MURAH DIMINTA CONTOHI SEBALIKNYA HALANGAN ALASAN DARI MANUSIA (NAFSU) TIMBUL OLEH SEBAB TERTENTU HANYALAH SATU SIKAP KERAS KEPALA. BUKAN BERMAKSUD PERKARA INI TIDAK BOLEH DI JALANKAN. CONTOHNYA RAKYAT BANTAH SAMAN BUKAN BERMAKSUD TIDAK BOLEH SAMAN DIKELUARKAN SEBALIKNYA BERPADA-PADA DENGAN KADAR YANG DIKENAKAN.

6) CONTOH LAIN DARI SAMAN YANG DIKENAKAN. DULU RAKYAT TIDAK MERASA BEBAN SAMAN RM 30 TERHADAP KESALAHAN. RAKYAT SANGGUP MEMBAYARNYA MALAH PIHAK YANG MENGELUARKAN SAMAN DAPAT JUTAAN KALAU RIBUAN PENDUDUK TERKENA SAMAN. KINI RM 300 BEBANNYA PADA RAKYAT MENGUNTUNGAN PENYAMAN BERBILLION. TIDAKKAH INI SATU TINDASAN KEMANUSIAN.

7) KEMALANGAN MASIH BERLAKU JADI MENAIKKAN HARGA SAMAN BUKAN JALAN PENYELESAIAN MENGAJAR PENGGUNA INSAF MALAH JALAN MEROSAKKAN KEHIDUPAN MANUSIA TERUTAMA KOS KEHIDUPAN MALAH LEBIH ZALIM DARI HUKUMAN PENJARA YANG MEMBERI PELUANG MEMBETULKAN AMALAN DIRI.

8) KERETA CIPTAAN MANUSIA YANG DIBELI CARA TUNAI SATU KORBAN WANG KEPADA PERKARA WAJIB LAIN YANG SEPATUTNYA DI DAHULUKAN DAN KALAU HUTANG MENJADI BEBAN SERTA DITAMBAH LAGI SAMAN ,INSURAN, CUKAI TIDAK MENGIKUT KADAR YANG DIBENARKAN HANYALAH UMPAMA MAINAN YANG DI NILAI OLEH HUKUMAN MANUSIA SAHAJA.

9) YANG LEBIH MERISAUKAN MANUSIA TELAH MULA CUBA MEMAHALKAN BARANGAN YANG TIDAK DICIPTA OLEH MANUSIA SENDIRI SEPERTI AIR, MAKANAN, BAHAN GALIAN DARI BUMI YANG SUDAH TENTU MENGUNTUNGAN GOLONGAN BERNAFSU JAHAT.

10) SEBAGAIMANA SEORANG NABI MUHAMMAD S.A.W (ISRAK-MEHRAJ) MEMINTA ALLAH S.W.T MENGGURANGKAN BILANGAN SOLAT SEHINGGALAH KEANGKA LIMA, BEGITULAH KITA MANUSIA MEMERLUKAN PEMIMPIN YANG SANGGUP BERJUANG MEMPERTAHANKAN HARGA PERCUMA DENGAN KADAR TETAP DAN TIDAK MENERUSKAN CIPTAAN YANG DIREKA SEBAGAI SATU JALAN UNTUK MENAIKKAN HARGA YANG ASALNYA PERCUMA DARI ALLAH S.W.T.

WALLAHUA'LAM

By dino on March 31, 2011 12:55 PM

Dear Tun,

Thousand thanks on your Proton brainchild or else many Malaysians would not have afforded the luxury of owning and driving cars. It was a step on the right direction. On the contrary, if we do not develop our national/local cars, our roads these days would be inundated with old/second hand foreign cars as many can't effort to buy new ones. Malaysia too would lose out in our foreign exchange and employment not to mention technology and design transfer.

The Proton story is a good success story except that the AP holders are enriching themselves with government handouts(spelled licences) much to the disappointment of those estranged group (out of favor group) who could not secure AP permits.

This is one field area that I raise my hand in saluting you, Tun. But changing the Malay rustic mindset and feudalistic culture is something I found that many of my Malay leaders have failed miserably.

By sizzer33 on March 31, 2011 11:42 AM

From point 7-17, none of those points explains why the people of Malaysia have to pay double the price for foreign cars. These points shows what the government do to support their own industries yes, but not by making the imports more expensive that they have to buy inferior home-made products. Some of the points like point 7 and 12 is not relevant at all. What cars aren't imported into Singapore? And in Germany, financial tariffs are given to people to scrap old cars and buy new one, what the hell it got to do with this topic. Is it such a torture that they have to sell their old car and get incentives to buy a NEW Volkswagen.. "Ahh this is crazy..i could've bought me a Toyota or a Proton if it wasn't for this stupid incentive. Instead i end up with a Volkswagen".

By kubakoya on March 31, 2011 11:39 AM

US and Japan protect the natioanl car companies after they protect the people. The quality of the cars are made as maximum as possible since it directly impact their people safety on the road. As you said, one defect harms its users, the company producing the defective car has the possibility to be closed.

Tell me about Proton safety measures? I still can't understand why their SE edition prefer skirtings than 6 airbags? If it is not because the main objective is to sell cars for profit, not to provide Malaysian with safe and reliable cars, then what is?

Every cost cutting jeopardized people life, people who are not as wealthy as YB's who drives Mercedes. Or who cannot afford even Honda City.

In order to achieve your goal to have national car, later to protect the company, you allow cheap cars to be produced with minimum safety requirements. While to fulfill Europe standard, Proton Gen2 sold in Europe with full specs at lower price.

I well understand how the business run, how to fit in every country's market, how to keep the supply and demand balance, how to raise profit for the nation, but was it the best to do?

After I finished my study, I got PTPTN to pay, with INTEREST. Then, I work for foreign company who cares only the RM, I was TAXED. Then later, I buy a national car because I cannot afford to buy safer imported car .The government TAX the car, price like hell.

I bought the National car with bank loan money, it comes with 4% INTEREST, so the price is not cheap anymore. Plus the INSURANCE that raise money from statistic that in 2005, out of 15,000,000 insured cars, only 300,000 cars involve in accident. 14,700,000 paid money for to the big fish for nothing. To have the car without airbag, the life INSURANCE company need less words to promote their package.

So now to buy house in KL?

You should try to remove the Malaysian dependent mentality on cars, and concentrate on public transport. Open the car market, let the material price take control. Over time, we have extra steel to recycle and extra trains for traveling across Titiwangsa.

So the people don't have to borrow money from banks to own depreciated assets, but to own land, houses and business that appreciated over time.

You have to keep us rich, we keep the government rich (not UMNO).

By parameswara 2 on March 31, 2011 11:05 AM

Dearest Tun

1-We want Proton to stay.Yes do whatever is necessary to keep it going.Being a car maker makes us feel like a great developed country.I understand that there's just eleven of us in the World.

2-All we want is better quality car that can also sell in other countries.Like the Korean cars.In Malaysia we only have Kia,Hyundai and Rexton but in other countries they also have Samsung and Daewoo cars.The Korean cars today look even better than the Japanese cars.Why can't we we do the same.I thought Malaysia Boleh?

3-Instead of making us proud to do things like that exporting originals to the World ,under the new CEO Syed he brought the great Perodua technology into Proton.A great thing called rebadging that has recently delivered us the Inspira and I believe more of these advancement is coming.Aren't we proud of Syed, Tun?

4-My wife's 2 year Proton Saga is making a lot of funny noises now.Last week the main door handle of her car just got loose and appeared like its falling off, a truly strange phenomena for any new car I have had owning new German and Japanese cars.

5-Somebody is definitely cutting corners Tun and this is the thing that Tun could possibly do to help our car makers.Somebody is surely making money delivering us cheap things in our

components and I think Tun it is not too difficult to do something about. If only you want to, you'll know just what to do.

6-Just my opinion. Thanks Tun.

Thanks Tun

By Hazman Abu Bakar on March 31, 2011 10:44 AM

Tun. I don't really care how much tax imposed on foreign car. seems like all Malaysian could afford a BMW nowadays.

I am more concerned on Proton. I bought a Proton and would like to support Proton all the way. but seems like Proton don't want to help itself. from the quality of car Proton produce, each car is overpriced. power window until today is crappy. can't a Proton even have a decent power window? then the display panel such as FOC indicator and such. not to mention the overpriced Proton service centre. I just couldn't believe my eyes they charged me RM150 for an ATF. I heard all sort of dodgy things happening in Proton. vendors charging way higher for crappy quality parts. All this fact, maybe I'm wrong, maybe you could shed a light to it. The CAMpro engine, the body and handling got really big improvement. kudos to that and I am really proud of it.

If Proton want the people to support them, then Proton should support the community back, by not lining away our hard earned money. I don't mind spending more on quality. from what I heard, the Americans and Japanese pay way cheaper for their own produced car and we commonly know how high the quality these countries produce car. why can't we be that way. All I'm asking for a better quality. Throw away all these crony vendors all I can assure Proton quality gonna shot over the roof.

By Dr Syed Alwi Ahmad on March 31, 2011 10:25 AM

Assalamualaikum wr wb,

Dear Tun Mahathir,

I support your views regarding the political economy. ASEAN cannot afford to arbitrarily open its market to giant Western corporations while its own industries are still small and struggling to survive. The West and Japan has the advantage of technology which we in ASEAN do not - or at least not yet.

ASEAN should rely on import substitution until its own industries can compete with Western ones.

In the meantime, indigenous industries MUST try their very best to climb up the technology ladder. We cannot pretend that trade protectionism is forever - because it isn't. We can only buy some time so that our own local industries can catch up technologically.

If Malaysia's economy is dominated by giant Western corporations, then Malaysia - in particular the Malays - will lose political autonomy ! If Western corporations control the economy and the Overseas Chinese in Malaysia look up to the West - then what future do the Malays have ?

Tun - the Malays in Malaysia do NOT have a sense of urgency regarding this matter. Here in Singapore, the Singaporean Malay is very worried about this. We (i.e. Singaporean Malays) know that our future depends on the future of Malaysia. Malaysian Malays cannot afford to fail. So please urge the Malays in Malaysia to close the technology gap.

Wassalam
Dr Syed Alwi Bin Ahmad (Alsree)

By T on March 31, 2011 9:26 AM

/// 6. Is the Government doing something that other Governments are not doing? I list below the measures taken by other countries to protect their economy.

7. Singapore : Buyers have to pay a high price for a certificate to import cars. ///

Yes, Singapore has one of the highest, if not the highest, car prices. However, the taxes are not to protect the economy, or even the local car industry. It is to control the number of cars so that the roads are not congested.

Source: <http://chedet.co.cc/chedetblog/2011/03/protectionism.html>