

## **THE STORY OF THE PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**

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**Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad**

1. I think generally Malaysians know very little about the Perdana Leadership Foundation. Certainly very few know of its origin.
2. Now that the Government of Dato Sri Najib is trying to destroy this foundation, it has achieved certain notoriety. Perhaps it is time to enlighten the public about its origin and its work.
3. It began with a proposal by a few businessmen that a library be built to commemorate the twenty-two years of my premiership.
4. I felt greatly honoured but besides knowing that they would be accused of being my cronies, the idea went against my principle of being against personality cult.
5. Throughout the time I was in the Government I had tried to stop the practice of naming public places after living people. The exception I made was for the rulers. Others would have to wait until they die before their names would be given to public places.
6. As I was still alive at the time the proposal was made, I rejected the proposal. Besides I could not ignore the contribution of my predecessors to the development of Malaysia.
7. Accordingly I suggested that they commemorate all the previous Prime Ministers and future Prime Ministers by setting up an institute to gather all documents relating to the policies, strategies and plans initiated and implemented by all Malaysian Prime Ministers.
8. Hence the name Perdana Leadership Foundation or institute. In the Library of the Foundation are collected information on the work of all Malaysian Prime Ministers. It is a reference library available to everyone who wishes to study the story of Malaysia's development and the contributions of its Prime Ministers.
9. The founders and sponsors of the Foundation bought the land, built the building and maintain it. Staff for the archive and library and supporting staff are paid from the Foundation's fund through contribution by the sponsors.
10. The practice in Malaysia is for the Government to provide an office and staff for former Prime Ministers. Although the Tunku was rather antagonistic towards the Government and did speak from opposition platform and supported the DAP, he enjoyed privileges until he died.
11. Accordingly the Government rented space in the Perdana Leadership Foundation for me and a few of my staff.
12. Apart from the work of gathering the documents, speeches and writings of the Prime Ministers, PLF decided on a campaign to criminalise war. This led to the creation of the Kuala Lumpur Foundation to Criminalise War (KLFCW). We held conferences participated by local peace-lovers as well as from the Middle East, Europe, America and other parts of the world. We are continuing with the campaign.

13. The PLF is also involved in helping the Palestinians especially after the Israelis attacked Gaza. To specifically undertake these efforts of assisting those suffering in war torn nations, we have set up the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF). We have done some charity work among them.

14. For these activities we raised funds from the public. In the past the Government contributed a few million Ringgit for which we are very grateful.

15. Since I am in this building, all kinds of people come to see me, singly or in groups. When they are unhappy with the Government they seek my help. I never close my door to anyone. That is why after retirement I still go to office as if I am still working.


16. Of course people come to see me in other places also, in three other offices and also in my house. But now that I have resigned from Proton and Petronas, the PLF is usually where I work.

17. Even if the Government stops renting space in PLF and refuse to pay Government staff accorded to me, I will still be working here in the PLF.

18. Only now the supporters of PLF are feeling scared as people close to me are being harassed. They may cease to support the PLF and we will have to stop research being done in our library and archives and also our campaign to make the killing of people and the destruction of countries through war to be criminalised.

19. But it is okay. I only want to let people know what the Perdana Leadership Foundation is about.

3 thoughts on "THE STORY OF THE PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION"

1.  [Log in to Reply fyloren](#) Jun 30, 2016 2:16 PM

Dear YABhg Tun,

Thank you for your services to the country for 22 years. May Allah bless you always. Hope to meet you someday to personally say thank you. Selamat berpuasa and selamat hari raya in advance dear Tun.

2.  [Log in to Reply RD](#) Jun 30, 2016 2:15 PM

Wonder why Najib's government is behaving like the PLF belongs to UMNO.

Therefore, I suggest PLF take-down Najib's portrait within the building. Or smear it with shit. Or do a Semporna.

3.  [Log in to Reply rkmh226](#) Jun 30, 2016 2:08 PM

Assalamualaikum...

YABhg. Tun,

Thanks for the valuable information as it is as clear as crystal. Yes, many people were in the dark about PLF until you made an effort to explain everything related to it to us. Thanks again.

I personally do hope that you and your team would continue doing noble things as usual at PLF. All the best to us, Malaysians.

Pls take care, dear Tun.

Wassalam.

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