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Sunset of the Empire

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CENTURY CLIPS

Politics, economics, culture and sports - this series is a peek at the forces which shape our country. In Life & Times every day until the end of the year, from the Malaya of old to the Malaysia of today, we sketch upon the canvas of history.

Umno votes for continuity this year, rejecting, on April 24, a major challenge to party leader Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. On April 28, his defeated challenger tenders his resignation.

Efforts to improve standards of living continue, too. On October 1, the closed toll system comes into force along the Kuala Lumpur-Ayer Keroh expressway; and on October 15, MAS launches its new corporate image.

The year draws to a close with the six Asean leaders pledging, on December 15, commitment to the early realisation of a Southeast Asian zone of peace, freedom and neutrality.