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Fate smiles kindly on Pahang MB to the dismay of his detractors

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LIKE most Muslims, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob is a firm believer in fate.

He has said on numerous occasions that what is destined to be yours, nobody will be able to take it away.

It was similar on that morning of Sept 11. It was Adnan's last day in Mecca and he was all set to perform his third round of umrah.

Then came the trunk call from his Press secretary Abdul Wahab Ali to convey the "bad" news that Utusan Malaysia had carried a report in the front page saying that Adnan would step down as Menteri Besar.

Adnan was very composed. While heading for the Masjidil Haram, there was no mention about the "news of the day" from back home, although he could come down in history as the shortest-serving Menteri Besar if the news were true.

Adnan only requested that those accompanying him also pray for Pahang's peace and prosperity in addition to their individual prayers in front of the Holy Kaaba.

There have been many tales of the unexpected in the Holy City and those who have been there can testify to this.

After the third umrah, an aide of the Menteri Besar received a call that said the Umno supreme council, which would sit later that day, would reappoint Adnan as the Pahang Umno chief.

There were looks of disbelief among those accompanying Adnan.

To them, such an important decision was supposed to be made only during the supreme council meeting and it was impossible for anyone to know of any decision beforehand.

Right after completing his tawaf wida (farewell), Adnan received another call from a staff in his office in Kuantan saying that television stations had aired the announcement by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on his appointment to the post.

Indirectly, the announcement quashed rumours that Adnan was to relinquish his Menteri Besar post.

Those who have been working overtime to chart Adnan's downfall must have felt disappointed at the unexpected twist of events.

They have forgotten all about Fate, the mysterious force which is supposed to be the cause of all events, one that is beyond human control.

Man proposes, God disposes.

Perhaps, Adnan's detractors had chosen the wrong time to "fix" him.

They must have also forgotten that to Muslims, Mecca and specifically the Holy Kaaba is the place where prayers are likely to be answered.

"We are here in Mecca on good intention. God is great," Adnan said while his plane left the Jeddah Airport for Dubai en route to Kuala Lumpur.

The most likely reason for those wanting to see Adnan removed from the Menteri Besar's post is his bold decision to restructure the State Government agencies.

It has become an open secret that many at the helm of these agencies are not happy with what Adnan was doing although they have made the decision collectively during a seminar last month.

Some of the agencies have become liabilities to the State Government due to their forays into sectors alien to them without conducting prior feasibility studies. As a result, they have incurred heavy losses.

Adnan had also promised the re-positioning of the agencies' board of

directors.

In a few months, reports on the financial standings and dealings of the agencies will be out and these will no doubt expose the flaws.

Some of the managers felt that Adnan had to be stopped and the best way would be to have him removed.

While at the Dubai Airport, a member of Adnan's delegation left behind his camera in front of the Sheraton Hotel where they had stayed overnight.

He went back to the hotel and made a futile search for it.

The delegation member told Adnan that he was not disappointed because he had accepted his fate that he was to lose the camera. But just before the delegation entered the departure hall, a hotel staff came running with the camera.

Adnan then approached the delegation member and said: "Life can be very simple if you are ever prepared to accept your fate."

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