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Age is no barrier where Dr Mahathir is concerned

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NORMALLY when someone asks you when you are leaving, it should either be because you had given them an indication, or they simply want you to get lost, disappear from the scene, give up and retire.

But in the case of our still strong and still performing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, I find it hard to understand why he had been made to answer this same question several times during the last few years.

And the same question popped up again very lately after his 20th anniversary as Prime Minister.

Who, I wonder, actually wants him out and why?

It was, however, quite understandable at one time when the second echelon and the then gang of pretenders were gearing up to upstage the leadership, building up "anti" feelings and committing themselves to the extent of running down their own patron, mentor and promoter.

Outrageous as it may sound, the build-up and the showdown were probably events of a typical political power game, and we had all stood witness as to who actually came out victorious.

He deserves our due respect.

It was simply the unpleasant task of removing an unfit possible successor for the sake of the country. The final outcome did truly fall in place, ensuring that the country remained in good hands, if not much stronger.

If we had ventured deep into understanding the need for such an action then perhaps we would be able to understand and appreciate truly that it did not, in whatever way, undermine the prosperity of the country and the well-being of the masses.

We have no reason whatsoever to doubt the real intention of such seemingly drastic action, which evidently and effectively frustrated the hope of an external force that had exploited the possibility of enforcing their wishes and dictating terms on the way, and by whom, this country should be governed.

There is no need to be anxious or excited about when Dr Mahathir should retire.

We are not in anyway underestimating the capabilities of the up-and-coming leaders, but what is wrong with the old horse at the moment anyway?

We do not see any sign of deterioration except for the receding front and the thinning top!

But inside, the "computer" continues to be highly resourceful with excellent database and sufficient saving space remaining.

Physically and mentally, the man still keeps on going as strong as ever, active and productive!

We are of course referring to national progress, and for that, please take stock that he had never stopped working, be it on a working day or a holiday.

That had always been his behaviour and character, right from his doctoring days in Langkawi and all the way through the compassionate and people-oriented Maha Klinik in Alor Star.

He never gave up and we know he will not - not until his dream and aspirations for the country and its people are on safe and sound footing.

There is actually no time limit for a leader and age as a figure should never be the barrier.

Dr Mahathir has proven himself a good man, a good Muslim, a loving husband and an exemplary worker.

It may be hard for some people to accept this since there are always those who have no choice but to advocate simply change for the sake of change and spend more time searching for skeletons.

There are also those forgetful people who only work for their own ends and aspirations, resorting to all available tricks and manipulations in building up their personal and selfish goals, and in doing so, totally disregarding the basic fundamentals for the well-being of the country and its people.

It must always be remembered that it is very easy to spot failures and shortcomings.

Capitalising within this area alone sometimes displays one's real weakness and narrow outlook for brazenly disregarding fair evaluation, and in the process remain blind to their own backyards within the enclaves they govern.

Development in its various forms and areas are relative to each other and they need to be exploited and capitalised through hard work. Just as currency value is relative and provides purchasing power, it will no doubt, at the same time, be relative to your livelihood and way of life.

True, honest and fully committed leaders and fighters are hard to come by.

Fanaticism, personal agendas, envies and jealousies have been the true force behind the political struggles of so many politicians.

In the context that some are so forgetful while some others never learn, the scenario actually depicts the moral quality and mental capabilities of those who present themselves as the so-called politicians struggling for the country and its people.

In many cases, at the top of the agenda had always been how far they can go and of course the accompanying prosperity of their personal ends.

Innocent people are sometimes misled creating reactions mainly as a result of pent-up emotions and blind opposition.

The leadership of Dr Mahathir has created a Malaysia that is stable and peaceful.

It had been a monumental task that needs to be maintained and sustained.

It cannot be allowed to fall into the wrong hands that can only find survival in a lopsided partisan or communal support but not in a widespread multiracial and multicultural living and working environment.

These factions capitalise on narrow sentiments, wide ranging emotions and confined personal belief, throwing aside the relevancy and demand of the united multi-faction governance.

They build their dreams on their version of idealistic sentiments that will eventually submit to the unavoidable strong-arm tactics to realise finally their partial goal at whatever cost.

These are the parties that will be forced into the uncompromising hard-line style of government, certainly much worse than what they choose to perceive as bad now.

History and geography had created the multiracial and multicultural environment that we live in now.

It is the age-old trend since the early times when human beings from different corners of the earth started to migrate, sailing across open seas in search of greener pastures.

The present effect of human distribution must, therefore, be accepted, cultivated and preserved.

There is simply no other way to survive within this environment other than to create and promote conducive living and working conditions strongly based on close relationship, solidarity, understanding, tolerance

and mutual respect.

We had been able to achieve these through the efforts of the present and the only style of government transcendent from the autocratic colonial rule since independence, a government with compassion and willingness to accept the reality of co-existence.

No one should be heard or tolerated to undermine this necessary basis and criteria for the survival of all.

In protection, therefore, a fast and necessary action for the internal security of the country must be made practicable and carried out justly.

A fair-minded person can easily foresee what the situation will be if an opposition party takes control and turn this country into their version of an Islamic nation.

For their very own integrity, they should, in the first place, exhibit the guts to spell out clearly the rules and regulations, the laws and the style of government they envisage, without resorting to veiled promises and the loosely accommodating propaganda in order to maintain their so-called political union.

The previous election manifesto of the opposition party is too broad and misleading to give a true picture of the type of government promulgated.

However, it would only turn out as a version of what they visualised as an Islamic country because Malaysia today, for all intents and purposes and as far as its Muslim citizens are concerned, is already an Islamic country.

It can certainly be, and had continually been, further refined and enhanced to meet religious criteria but certainly there is no need for a change of government.

Just be practical and reasonable, and with due respect to all.

At this point of time we should strongly believe that we must pay a lot of attention to the tasks at hand and continue working hard.

The leadership, the political alliance, the policies and system are all in order and on the right track.

All we need are bright sparks to ignite it towards greater success. As for Dr Mahathir, I do not think he does not know when to call it a day or will shirk the responsibility of ensuring good continuity.

For now we do not have a problem on the question of who, so let us all give our hearts and minds as to how!

We can certainly live upon his obsession and deep commitment towards realising a successful, modern and peaceful Malaysia. There is no need to keep on asking when!