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Malaysian Business 30 Years: A passage in time

MALAYSIA'S premier business magazine is 30 years old! Yes, Malaysian Business has come a long way. And to celebrate this momentous occasion, we have this special anniversary issue, a keepsake compilation of some of our most interesting stories of the past three decades. We bring you exclusive interviews, burning issues of yesteryear and the story behind significant milestones in our country's corporate history - events and people who helped shape corporate Malaysia.

We start off with our first ever cover story on Malaysian Airlines System Bhd (MAS), our national airline, which shares the same birthday as the magazine. On the cover, with a simple white sans-serif 'Malaysian Business' emblazoned on the masthead, we featured the MAS pioneer management team, comprising Tan Sri G K Rama Iyer, Datuk Malek Merican, Datuk Aziz Abdul Rahman, Tan Sri Saw Huat Lye, Tan Sri Azman Hashim, and Datuk Abu Hassan Abdullah. The story explored the issues and processes involved in the birth of MAS. In many ways, our hopes and vision for the magazine were similar to the country's hopes and vision for the national airline.

What follows are interviews with two high-profile personalities instrumental in the country's development and progress. Our interview with the late Tun Ismail Mohamed Ali, the first Malaysian governor of Bank Negara, and the late Tun Tan Siew Sin, the longest-serving finance minister, give interesting and intriguing insights into the men who set the foundations for the financial system and economy of the country. They were men of principle, men who were not afraid to speak their mind, to state what was black and what was white. And their words, immortalised in this special issue, still hold lessons for us today.

Next comes several interviews with Malaysia's fourth prime minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Through the past 30 years, Malaysian Business has had the opportunity to interview the man seven times - four times before he became premier and thrice during his tenure. Dr Mahathir also has the distinction of being the first Malaysian prime minister to grant the magazine an interview.

We featured the pioneers of the Proton Saga in 1986, giving an exciting behind-the-scenes look at the ingenious formation of the national car - the vehicle to awaken a national consciousness to industrialisation.

No historical flashback is complete without a couple of scandals, so we threw in two that had rocked the Malaysian corporate world. We give you Malaysian Business' in-depth analysis of the deposit-taking co-operatives scandal in the 1986, in which more than half a million Malaysians lost RM1.5 billion, and the bid for Federal Cables, Wires and Metals Manufacturing Bhd, following its forged scrip fiasco.

Lastly, we bring you probably the first interview ever in 1993 granted by Berjaya Group chief Tan Sri Vincent Tan Chee Yioun. Tan obliged Malaysian Business after more than a year of requests for this interview, which traces his rise to riches and gives an insight into the mind of one of the more colourful businessmen in Malaysian corporate history.

As Malaysian Business moves forward in the years ahead, you can be assured of more new features and coverage of hot topics that shape and mould the local corporate scene and beyond. Stick with us. You won't be disappointed!