

06/08/2002

Dad is a self-made man

Sharifah al-Attas

Abraham:

DR Mahathir bought medicine from my father for 12 years. Every weekend, he'd come to Sungai Petani from Alor Star, and Dad's was the only medical hall in Kedah and Perlis, as far as Butterworth.

In Alor Star, he was running his own clinic - Maha Clinic, in Pekan Melayu. On Fridays - the weekly holiday - he'd stop by Dad's shop at 4 Jalan Ibrahim near the clock tower in Sungai Petani. He'd give Dad his order, and continue to Penang.

In the evening, he'd return and pick up his order, on the way back. My father's man, who'd got the medicines ready, would load `em into the boot of his car.

If he'd ordered by telephone, his order'd be sent on the train, or by bus.

He was a good paymaster, and supported the shop. He was very local-oriented. Patriotic about Kedah. In Penang, he may've been able to get medicines at a lower price. But he bought in Kedah, and from my father.

When Dad was strapped for cash, Dr Mahathir would open his register and let Dad at it. He bought on three months' credit, so my father took only what was owing him.