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In due time

Chris Yong

I REFER to the article entitled Of The Mongols and Dr Mahathir in the 'On A Personal Note' column by A Kadir Jasin in the Sept 16th-30th issue of Malaysian Business, which made interesting reading. I would like to comment further.

Self-criticism of one's own race is a rare and bold trait among Malays like Kadir but sometimes, it is necessary for a 'wake-up call' or reality check. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, despite his misgivings, is truly a great Malay leader. Besides improving the country's per capita income, he has also improved the business acumen of Malay businessmen.

Today, you see loads of educated and professional Malays, especially the fairer sex, in the market. Although he has changed the mindset of some Malays, he is not satisfied with the majority.

The Malay race has come a long way. While it is good to compare it with the Chinese, it must be remembered that the Chinese have a long tradition as an enterprising race, especially overseas Chinese who like to dabble in business.

Given another decade, with global conditioning, Malay businessmen will learn to compete and become successful. Of course, we have to dismantle the affirmative action at the same time, as otherwise, any genuine effort will be tempered with the 'help' tag.

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Via e-mail