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Dynamism of one man

Dr K.H. Sng

MALAYSIANS cannot avoid reflecting on the past 22 years under the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed as Prime Minister. Many of our Asean neighbours and Asia-watchers worldwide have expressed their views about him.

How did Dr Mahathir, the nation's CEO perform?

It was no smooth ride during the past two decades, when he saw through the tragedy of his own political party being dissolved and himself personally challenged from within the party as well as from a strong opposition formed by the coalition. Many other issues threatened to rock the nation, from religion, the position of the royalty, the economic crises, policies on education, the question of meritocracy and various ongoing racial issues.

Running a country like Malaysia is not easy and he did it with flying colours. He deserves an A1 for political stability.

The majestic Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest - a structure many of us now take for granted, is a clear statement of our nation's development and ongoing progress.

The national car, a dream come true through one man's inspiration and dynamism amid strong criticism, is another example.

The network of roads, bridges, development of our ports and of course the Kuala Lumpur International Airport are further proof of the nation keeping pace with the developed world.

Of course, we must take a look at any leader's performance through the country's economy. Dr Mahathir took the country through many painful and trying periods, the worst being the economic crisis that shook the whole of Asia. Five years later, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank applauded our Prime Minister for his feat. We did not lose our savings and buying power thanks to one man. Our per capita income tripled from RM4,630 to RM14,877 over 22 years, and a huge middle class has arrived.

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