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The great pioneer of our nation

Dr Chan Chin Cheung

AS a long-time observer of the development of our country, from colonial times until now, I dare say that the period of 22 years under Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership produced the most progress and benefit for the people.

Before the New Economic Policy, there were only two hotels of note in Kuala Lumpur. Now, there are countless hotels, superb restaurants, world-class malls and shops, coupled with a low cost of living which is the envy of others.

At the launch of the NEP in 1972, meaningful Bumiputera corporate activity was nil. The economy was dominated by colonial interests.

A sea change began with the wise, dedicated and loyal support of people close to the policy-makers, providing the smooth and harmonious transition from one Prime Minister to another.

Dr Mahathir, on assuming the mantle of leadership, gathered together the twin pillars of peace and harmony set in place by his illustrious predecessors, and set forth to put Malaysia on the world map and on the road to what we have today - "peace and harmony at home, success in the outside world", to quote an ancient Chinese couplet.

During this period, too, many large and small non-Bumiputera enterprises emerged and so did many Bumiputera businesses of the same ilk. In other words, different communities now interact socio-economically in peace and harmony.

This legacy built and left by Dr Mahathir, a great pioneer of our country, will endure forever.

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