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The virtues of loyalty

Bulbir Singh

I refer to A Kadir Jasin's article entitled Enter the New Guards in the Dec 1, 2002 issue of Malaysian Business regarding the appointment of Tengku Datuk Adnan Tengku Mansor as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and former journalist Datuk Zainuddin Maidin as Deputy Minister of Information.

Loyalty has its rewards, and those who exemplify this quality are often treated well in the end.

They say it pays to be loyal, but sometimes it also pays to be disloyal! Case in point: Zainuddin. Zainuddin was 'packed off' for some error in judgement when he was Editor-in-Chief of the Utusan Malaysia Group. I recollect him writing for The Star, praising his present boss, during his years in the 'wilderness'.

It must have been difficult for this newsman to be isolated when all along he had been in the thick of things!

But he learnt from his mistakes and reformed. He knew how to play his cards well. Today, his loyalty has paid off.

I think Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad makes good judgements of character. It is this forte that has made him last this long.

I hope Zainuddin stands for elections and becomes a people's representative. Joining the Government via the 'back door' should not be the case for someone as credible and principled as him.

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