

A MAN TO RESPECT

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PENANG: When Dr. Mahathir Mohamed took over the reins of the Deputy Premiership, he was as determined as ever to achieve a united, peaceful and prosperous Malaysia.

This strong belief in a better life for all Malaysians irrespective of racial origins has gained him greater respect among friends and foes alike.

Born in Alor Star on Dec. 20, 1925, Dr. Mahathir or "Doktor Umno" as he is popularly known in his birthplace, received his early education at the Seberang Perak Malay School and later at the Sultan Abdul Hamid College.

After graduating from the University of Malaya (Singapore) with a MBBS degree, he served as a medical officer in Kedah and Perlis before resigning in 1957 to enter private practice.

Rise

Dr. Mahathir's swift rise has not changed his character since his days as a private medical practitioner.

His firmness and determination saw him through his rise to public prominence as a Member of Parliament for Kota Star Selatan in 1964 to that of a controversial figure in 1969. He then became the Minister of Education in 1974 and took up the mantle of the Deputy Prime Minister this year.

As a man who takes failure as a challenge, he did not sit back but

worked laboriously and patiently to regain lost ground when he lost his Kota Star Selatan seat to Haji Yusoff Rawa of the PMIP in 1969. His expulsion from the UMNO followed soon after.

Recently, Dr. Mahathir won much praise and support for the manner in which he handled student unrest in the Mara Institute of Technology.

At 50, it is still his nature to be firm

He believes in a single language to create a united nationality and identity. He feels that Malaysians would continue to be divided as long as they are without a national language.

Since taking over the education portfolio, he has brought about certain changes and some visible improvements in the education system and has won admiration not only from educationists and intellectuals but also the masses as well.

His assumption of the Deputy Premiership is a clear testimony of the faith and confidence placed on him.

Mahathir
a firm
but fair
taskmaster

Heartiest congratulations

to

Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed
(Deputy Prime Minister)

on his appointment

to

Datuk Hussein Onn's
New Cabinet



from

Mr. N. Balakrishnan, PTN, PJK.
Chairman of MIC, Bukit Junun, Kedah