

**Mahathir as Proton chairperson a disaster**  
**MalaysiaKini.com**  
**May 20, 2014**

KINIBIZ There is a tiger - strictly speaking a product which has a tiger as its logo - whose problem won't go away and which has just made it worse by taking steps to appoint Dr Mahathir Mohamad as chairperson. This Tiger is of course talking about Proton. With Mahathir at its helm, the only way Proton will survive is through the blood, sweat and tears of the rakyat.

Tiger came across a rather strange report in a financial newspaper this morning. Proton adviser and former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad was becoming its chairperson as well as that of UK subsidiary, sports car manufacturer, Lotus plc.

The Malaysian Reserve is also owned now by the same person who eventually owns Proton through DRB-Hicom, Syed Mokhtar Albukhary. Tiger assumes the newspaper knows what it is talking about. Let's consider it a done deal and then weigh in on how good or rather bad Mahathir will be for Proton.

Despite the newspaper's apple-polishing of Mahathir and his abilities which glowingly talks about how he would be an asset to Proton, the appointment is a disaster for Proton and the people of this country because it kills all hope that Proton will become an economically viable entity.

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Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/263347>