

## letters

# What about things that happened under you, Dr M?

**R. NADESWARAN'S** column "What If Citizen M Has His Say?" (Citizen Nades, June 14) raises further questions.

It is not only our former prime minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who has raised some pertinent questions or Nadeswaran who has put himself in Mahathir's shoes and asked some intelligent questions. Like many humble citizens, I too have a few questions to ask our beloved former prime minister of 22 years.

Perhaps, he could shed some light since the decisions were implemented during his tenure. We would certainly like to find out the reasons for the decisions that he had implemented that are directly affecting us today.

Since the saga between Mahathir and the current administration started, I have begun to question not Pak Lah's administration, but the decisions that were made during Mahathir's watch.

What I see of Pak Lah's administration is one that is characterised by prudence and transparency, with projects like the recent one in Sabah that benefits some 2,500 families who were given plots of land to plant rubber trees. If these families value the plot of land and work on it, they will eventually reap the benefits.

At the bottom of it all, Pak Lah had the people's interest in mind when he instructed the State Governments to prepare economic impact reports. He is prudent in his spending, trying not to create further deficits which could be detrimental to the country's economy.

It is the people's money that he is spending, and it is for the people's benefits that he spends the money. It is no wonder that Pak Lah has simply become the people's Prime Minister within the short span of only three years.

During Mahathir's administration, however, we have seen how some companies, were given monopoly in business and how the terms given in the course of privatisation were excessively generous.

The nation is fully aware now of what has transpired in the past. No one is going to instigate an uprising against Pak Lah's administration for policies that were implemented when he was deputy prime minister, but the people who continue to promote the old culture has to wake up and "bertaubat" (repent). Times have changed.

It is no wonder that the current government under Pak Lah is trying to undo some of the things that were done during

Mahathir's time. For example, the generous terms given to the independent Power Producers (IPPs) and road concessionaires.

Of course, the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) has a lot of money, but it belongs to contributors like me, who have to tighten our belts just to survive high inflation. As an EPF contributor, I would not agree to my money to be used for the crooked bridge, however scenic it could be, when there is already a second link which is hardly used.

Tun, why are you so concerned over the four issues that you have raised? If you had not raised them, we would not have asked that many questions of you. Now that you have raised your questions, do we not as ordinary citizens have the right as well to ask questions about what happened during your administration?

**Ordinary Citizen**  
**Kuala Lumpur**

## Article restores my spirits

**I READ P.** Gunasegaram's "22 Questions to Dr M" on your website and must say that it was one of the all-too-rare times when we can find *an article* produced by a local media that does not pander to the blinkered convictions of some truth-fearing, truth avoiding and fawning editors (there is now an exception, of course!) that was altogether a common feature in the past.

Just when I was starting to wonder despondently whether or not truth has become extinct or whether anyone cared about it anymore the article has restored my faith and spirits.

Keep up the good work and  
Bravo!

**Sylvester Goh**  
**via e-mail**