

work on my hands managing the resources.

I am quite happy if the federal ministers do this because the people will now know that these are the people who should not be there. So over time, they will be cast aside. The more they continue to do this, the better we are politically. Let me say to you ... these people, they are in Umno ... one example is this pig farming issue. The report shows that MCA proposed this and then Umno worked with them, saying "let's do it".

Nothing to do with racial reasons; it is socially good and economically viable to have a clean and modern pig farming industry.

Now here comes a chap who wants to champion Umno who ignores MCA and now says it cannot be done. Can you imagine? If MCA continues to lick Umno I don't know what level of dignity they have! This is the partner that they have. Can you imagine this? And none of the MCA leaders are willing to speak up. And here Umno says forget about the pig farmers, forget about the Chinese, even though they are in a weak position. I am enjoying this. It is a good thing for us. Let the Chinese and the Indians open their eyes to what sorts of fellows they are dealing with. Hey, it's true you know. If I were an MCA man who promoted this, and now I am being betrayed, what am I going to tell the other Chinese? This is what people tell me and I say promote it so society knows

that this is what you have experienced the last 50 years.

Back to the earlier question, you have said Selangor can be self-sufficient.

Of course, but I still grumble as Selangor pays a lot more in taxes than other states. If they don't want to go through the states due to political affiliations, I am not worried, but if they don't want to invest in the people of these states, I think it is unconstitutional as it is ultra virus to their decision-making as the people in these states pay taxes.

I think they are doing it (investing in Selangor). If they aren't or they try to do like in Terengganu when it was under PAS, subduing the state government there, they are killing themselves. They are shooting themselves in the foot! Lower growth in Selangor means lower growth in Malaysia.

How has investor confidence been over the last month?

I have more than enough investors coming to make deals with me. I got calls from international investors who have funds and say "I allocated US\$500 million (RM1.6 billion) for you, you decide (where to invest)". So I call them back and say "I'm sorry, I am now mentri besar, not your fund manager!" (laughs)

Do they now feel it is easier and cheaper to do business

in the state?

I trust it is easier and cheaper (laughs). We have received many proposals. I told them to give me a bit of time, so I can settle the administration. If I go out and do investment marketing when the infrastructure and administration cannot cope with their needs, they will be frustrated, so I must get myself ready first.

Is it prudent for the Selangor govt to be involved in resetting the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ)? What is in it for the state? Already RM4.6 billion of taxpayers' money has gone towards bailing it out.

Provided that the value is right, if the government writes off the value, I can manage it and the government can have a share in it. The intentions of PKFZ are good, but how to implement it in a more efficient and effective way? The idea of making an industry within the free trade zone has been done in Malaysia for many years, but the question is where is your cost? Is it in real estate or is it in trade? Unfortunately this whole thing is a real estate ploy to make gains by being a contractor and all that. But of course, with PKFZ, if the cost is too prohibitive, people will not come if you charge them based on your high cost (of operations) and your trading margin is very small. That allows a lot of turnover. But I think I can manage it if you

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have a net worth of people who can do it. The government must be open minded, they must write off their losses. Then they can move on.

But what about the RM4.6 billion of our money?

The state will not be doing a bailout! Later on, if managed well, the value of PKFZ will be higher and we will own it.

There are high hopes of a rehabilitation of the PKFZ with Klang Port Authority GM Datin Paduka O.C. Phang's contract not being renewed and the appointments of Datuk Ong Tee Keat and Datuk Lee Hwa Beng as Transport Minister and port authority chairman respectively.

We know that and I can sit down with them and speak to them on a business-to-business platform. Our idea is that you must be able to manage it, that's all; not a political upmanship. It is in the state of Selangor. If it is prosperous, the state will prosper, so it is in my interest and I have also to provide infrastructure connecting to PKFZ. Initially people were talking about the politics of it, but that's human nature. At the end of the day you have over RM4 billion invested, and how do you want to make it happen?

We know you are not giving up your parliamentary seat in Bandar Tun Razak for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. But don't you

think you are way over your head taking on all these responsibilities? Is it good for the people?

We have a mental health office in Ijok (his state seat). They (Khir Toyo's administration which set it up during the Ijok by-election) didn't use it. Now I use it. It is fully utilised! (laughs)

Bandar Tun Razak is a question of getting the Datuk Bandar to work efficiently with the 10 opposition members of parliament, that's all.

Do you know that Selangor has vacancies for two advisory board members in DBKL? Now the Datuk Bandar knows who he is dealing with.

Give me a few months so I can stabilise the whole thing. I think I can cope. The question is you must have the support of and quality people who work with you. Like a CEO, once you get the best lieutenants around you, it is plain-sailing. It just takes a bit of time.

So you have capable people to delegate duties to?

Yes, many. This is the challenge of a lifetime. I had that experience when I was about 32 or 33 years old at PNB. I enjoyed it. Now if I can get three or four people of that nature, they move everywhere. And they must have the right spirit of doing things.

Fortunately Selangor is not a troubled state. It is like if you are going into a company that has problems, then you have a nightmare. Here you just need to refine and fine-tune it and it will run well.