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Now Tun Mahathir writes a poem

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad (*picture*), who turned 90 on July 10, took to poetry to press his point against the current political situation in Malaysia.

In his poem "Malaysia Tanahair-ku" (My homeland Malaysia) that was uploaded on his *chedet.cc* blog account last Tuesday traced his life from the time he was born under a colonial master 90 years ago, to its road towards independence to the current situation where the Malay is now unwilling to overcome its weakness for greed and personal desires.

He said after achieving so much, his race is now selling out what little they have.

"The right to choose, the right to vote, is being offered to get comfort without work. For this little comfort, they sell their dignity, their race, their nation. Everything being sold

for temporary riches," reads a part of his poem.

Dr Mahathir's poem alludes to the political power of the Malays, which has saved the race, is now corrupted to politics that destroys it.

"The leaders are becoming greedier, for high positions. The *haram* has been made halal, Allah's name being used in vain, being sold for temporary earthly pleasures. Will my race return to being colonised?"

He said that greed and lust were used by the elites, so much so that a noble race that had gained independence from their colonial masters is now seen willing to sell their rights, which included to choose good things in life without working for it.

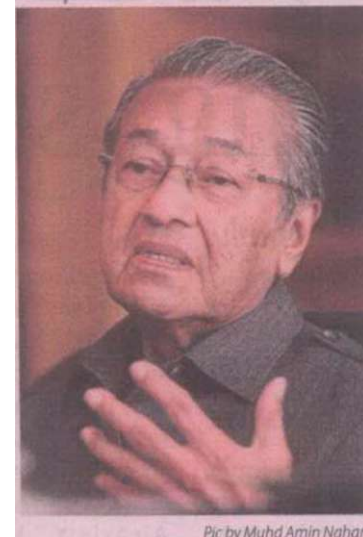
However, the poem ended in a more upbeat note, with Dr Mahathir hoping that the

Malays would return to being a people of honour, dignity and respected.

I will be gone before long
Will I close my eyes and
breathe my last
with my race, my country,
still honourable, still dignified
and looked up to,
Or will my eyes be
unfulfilled, my breath
difficult and stopped with all
that we have fought for gone
for the sake of our lust.

Dr Mahathir is the strongest critic of the present government's involvement in the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal that has gripped the nation.

1MDB, a strategic investor owned by the Ministry of Finance, has racked up debt of RM42 billion in the six years it has been operating.



Pic by Muhd Amin Nahatul

It is currently under investigation by five separate agencies, including a multi-agency special task force that has to date frozen six bank accounts and investigating the bank account of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.