



PERDANA LIBRARY
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION
NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

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THE STORY OF THE PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

By Dr Mahathir Mohamad – 30 June 2016

1. I think generally Malaysians know very little about the Perdana Leadership Foundation. Certainly very few know of its origin.
2. Now that the Government of Dato Sri Najib is trying to destroy this foundation, it has achieved certain notoriety. Perhaps it is time to enlighten the public about its origin and its work.
3. It began with a proposal by a few businessmen that a library be built to commemorate the twenty-two years of my premiership.
4. I felt greatly honoured but besides knowing that they would be accused of being my cronies, the idea went against my principle of being against personality cult.
5. Throughout the time I was in the Government I had tried to stop the practice of naming public places after living people. The exception I made was for the rulers. Others would have to wait until they die before their names would be given to public places.
6. As I was still alive at the time the proposal was made, I rejected the proposal. Besides I could not ignore the contribution of my predecessors to the development of Malaysia.
7. Accordingly I suggested that they commemorate all the previous Prime Ministers and future Prime Ministers by setting up an institute to gather all documents relating to the policies, strategies and plans initiated and implemented by all Malaysian Prime Ministers.
8. Hence the name Perdana Leadership Foundation or institute. In the Library of the Foundation are collected information on the work of all Malaysian Prime Ministers. It is a reference library available to everyone who wishes to study the story of Malaysia's development and the contributions of its Prime Ministers.
9. The founders and sponsors of the Foundation bought the land, built the building and maintain it. Staff for the archive and library and supporting staff are paid from the Foundation's fund through contribution by the sponsors.
10. The practice in Malaysia is for the Government to provide an office and staff for former Prime Ministers. Although the Tunku was rather antagonistic towards the Government and did speak from opposition platform and supported the DAP, he enjoyed privileges until he died.
11. Accordingly the Government rented space in the Perdana Leadership Foundation for me and a few of my staff.
12. Apart from the work of gathering the documents, speeches and writings of the Prime Ministers, PLF decided on a campaign to criminalise war. This led to the creation of the Kuala Lumpur Foundation to Criminalise War (KLFCW). We held conferences participated by local