

Mahathir among Time's 100 most influential people

KUALA LUMPUR: Described as a formidable old warhorse, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been listed in Time Magazine's 100 most influential people this year.

This follows the historic election victory that swept him back to power in the May 9 polls last year.

Sarawak Report editor Clare Rewcastle Brown, who wrote the profile summary for Dr Mahathir, described the 93-year-old as a "formidable old warhorse" who "dazzled during a gruelling campaign".

"You don't have to be young to fight the power.

"Take Dr Mahathir, the former Malaysian prime minister who came out of retirement last year to lambast his former successor Najib Razak, who is accused of embezzling millions of dollars from the 1MDB fund.

"Venting moral outrage, the colloquially called Dr M swept back to power in a landslide election victory in May 2018 at age 92," she wrote.

Rewcastle Brown said Dr Mahathir's campaign not only gathered vast crowds, but his reliance on core values helped to unite electoral groups, and his age enabled him to gain the trust of regular Malaysians.

"Now 93, Dr Mahathir has committed to handing over power to the former leader of the opposition, Anwar Ibrahim, 71, whom he released from jail days after his win.

"For Malaysia, the episode has re-established democracy in a country that almost teetered into totalitarianism," she said.

The Pakatan Harapan chairman is listed in the leaders' category with the likes of US President Donald Trump, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping, among others.