

Politics + Business = Toxic Mix?

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Tiger believes that politics and business should never mix, much like one does not mix energy drinks and alcohol (the mixture of which, when imbibed, could cause irreversible liver failure), and Tiger just does not understand why the two-legs don't see that sense.

It's a dog-eat-dog world out there, and Tiger understands this. The strong willed always oppress the weak, as it is in their nature to do so. Such is the law of the jungle, and apparently the law of business and politics as well. Maybe that is why Tiger sees the two-legs banding together. Unity IS strength, after all.

However, Tiger remains confused at the selection process that the two-legs have. While it is understandable that those in power dispense the work, should not the work be given to those who can best accomplish the task? Instead, Tiger sees what can only be called extreme favouritism among the ranks of the two-legs.

Tiger knows that favouritism will exist, otherwise all tenders for projects would be open tenders. A slight amount of favouritism leads to choices for direct negotiations, but the favouritism seen by Tiger borders on the extreme.

Which leads Tiger to the point: Politics and business, in Tiger's opinion, should not mix. Why is it so hard for these two-legs to get that?

Consider this. The mixture of politics and business has caused quite a bit of pain for the general populace, and has shown just how much money can be put away through government favouritism in the business world.

Take a look at the national carrier, which has received government bailouts in the past, in an attempt to "maintain national pride" or that it was "for the nation's best interests". While Tiger would not normally be one to speak against such motivations, MAS has had bailout after bailout after bailout for the last three years, costing the public multiple billions of ringgit in the name of "face".

Part of what clips the wings of the national carrier is government interference, but let's be direct about it and call it what it really is: meddling. Why does the government not support cost-cutting measures and why does it not get the best people to run the airline? Why is politics the main consideration?

And speaking of meddling, what about the national car? If there is ever an example of a parent mollycoddling a child, a logo of Proton would show up right next to the entry in the dictionary (Tiger feels slightly insulted that it would be a symbol with Tiger's visage). Protectionist tax policies and excise duties are provided by the government to the company, and this is all because "Proton cannot survive without government help".

And now, as if that was not enough, there has been yet another measure taken, where taxis have to be Proton Exoras from November 1st, in a rather off-putting colour as well, if Tiger may so opine.

Furthermore, Tiger firmly believes that companies are built on the back of the people that made the company, the people that worked to bring the company up. It is this hard work, dedication, and sacrifice that builds companies, not the protection and mollycoddling of the government!

Which leads Tiger to a bold declaration made recently by Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives, and Consumerism Hasan Malek at 7-Eleven Malaysia Holdings Bhd's IPO launch. While yes, he did credit the people who worked hard to bring the company up in the end, the two-leg waved the flag of his political party, and he waved it hard, claiming that "In truth, ladies and gentlemen, in truth, all of this, we forget that it is because of the Barisan Nasional government, our government, that provided the facilities for this,".

Tiger is, quite frankly, tired of parties sticking paws where they should quite well have no say. Let politicians do politics, and business-people do business, and let not these two mix. Otherwise the result could very well turn out toxic to the people that the politicians are meant to serve and protect, and detrimental to the businesses, and in turn, the economy that allows a nation to live and grow.

Now, Tiger has had enough, and will be off to take a nap and look for sustenance.

GRRRRR!