

MILESTONES

SUN 31/10/2003 -14-15 PRECISE

1925

- **MAHATHIR MOHAMAD** is born in Seberang Perak, Kedah.

1945

- Joins Umno.

1955

- Graduates from University of Malaya in Singapore with a medical degree.

1955-57

- Served as government medical officer in Kedah government.

1957

- Sets up own practice in Alor Star, the first Malay doctor to have his own clinic in town.

1964

- Wins his first election as a member of the Alliance and becomes a member of Parliament for Kota Star Selatan.

1969

- Loses his seat and was later expelled from Umno for criticising first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman.

1972

- Readmitted to Umno after the Tunku retires.

1974

- Is appointed senator. Won uncontested as MP and appointed minister of education.

1974

- Is elected vice-president of Umno.

1976

- Prime Minister (Tun) Hussein Onn picks Mahathir as deputy prime minister and deputy home minister.

1978

- Is made trade and industry minister.

1981

- On July 16, Hussein retires due to ill-health and Mahathir becomes fourth prime minister, takes over the Home and Defence ministries.
- Lifts the ban on his book *The Malay Dilemma*.
- Introduces the Look East Policy to emulate work ethics South Korea and Japan, and launches Dayabumi Complex and the Penang Bridge.

1982

- Leads the Barisan Nasional (BN) to electoral victory.
- Standardises time for the whole country by turning clocks in the peninsula 30 minutes forward.
- Sets up Permodalan Nasional Bhd to boost bumiputra savings by managing shares in trust funds.
- Launches Clean, Efficient and Trustworthy Campaign. Introduces the clock-in punch card system and name tags for civil servants.

1983

- Constitutional crisis between Umno and Rulers results in centralisation of the executive power. Parliamentary Bills passed to be gazetted as law after 60 days, with or without royal assent.
- Advances Malaysia Inc. concept of government-private sector-driven economic growth. Announces privatisation policy to increase productivity and efficiency of services and reduce the government's financial and administrative burden.
- Promotes the Leadership By Example Campaign and announces plans for a national car project.

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1984

- Mahathir removes Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah as finance minister after the latter loses the second Musa Hitam-Razaleigh contest in Umno elections.
- Sets the country's 70 million population target by 2105 and introduces the National Agricultural Policy to help raise the income of farmers by creating mini-plantations and improving management skills.

1985

- Pushes for Malaysia's industrialisation by launching the national car, Proton Saga.

1986

- In February, Musa resigns as deputy prime minister, citing differences in opinions and government policy matters. Mahathir appoints Umno pioneer (Tun) Ghafar Baba as DPM.
- Leads BN, for a second time, to a landslide electoral victory.
- Musa and Razaleigh form Team B and prepares to challenge Team A (Mahathir and Ghafar) for the Umno leadership.

1987

- Team A's narrow victory results in a major split in Umno and Malay unity in general. A purge of Team B follows.
- An Umno, weakened by unity, results in heightening of tensions over communal issues raised openly by community-based political parties and non-governmental organisations. Mass Internal Security Act (ISA) detentions under Operation Lallang see arrest of politicians and suspension of three newspapers.
- Declares Langkawi a duty-free island to promote it as an international tourist and event destination, like the biennial Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima) Exhibition.

1988

- The continuous political tussles and manoeuvres result in Umno's deregistration. Mahathir swiftly forms Umno Baru with Team B dissidents shut out.
- The deregistration of Umno also results in a judicial crisis, with the impeachment of Supreme Court judges.

1989

- Malaysia hosts her first ever Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the new Putra World Trade Centre, thrusting the nation into the global spotlight, and her capabilities in hosting international conferences. Also introduces the Langkawi Declaration on environmental protection.
- Mahathir undergoes open-heart surgery in a government hospital as an endorsement of the capability of local surgeons.

1990

- Although Mahathir leads BN, for the third time, to another two-thirds majority victory in Parliament, BN loses Kelantan to PAS.

1991

- On Feb 28, Mahathir unveils Vision 2020 blueprint to steer Malaysia to developed nation status and introduces the National Development Policy (NDP) to replace the National Economic Policy (NEP).

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1993

- Clearly on the losing end, Ghafar pulls out of the race for the Umno deputy presidency, paving the way for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's rise to No. 2 and appointment as deputy prime minister..
 - Constitutional crisis No. 2 leads to constitutional amendments to removal of the immunity of the Malay Rulers from being charged with criminal offences.
 - Changes the national anthem to a faster march tempo.
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1994:

- PBS wins narrowly in state elections and is toppled by defections, paving the way for the BN to rule in Sabah again.
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1995:

- Mahathir leads the BN, for the fourth time, to the coalition's biggest ever victory in electoral history, almost wiping out one of its traditional political rivals, the DAP.
 - Advances assimilation of Islamic policies and values in the government administration.
 - Becomes the first world leader to answer questions live on the Internet.
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1996

- Following the 1995 electoral disaster for the opposition coalition of Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah, Razaleigh dissolves Semangat 46 (S46), the party he founded. Mahathir accepts Razaleigh and all S46 members back into Umno unconditionally.
 - Mahathir and Anwar are returned unchallenged in Umno elections with the latter seen by the majority of party leaders as the "anointed successor".
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1997

- The East Asian financial crisis unfolds in July, results in depreciation, devaluation and disinvestment. Growing local market conflicts and recession drag until next year, peaking with Anwar's fall from political power a year later.
 - Sets a national information technology agenda to propel Malaysia as a centre of excellence for multimedia technology with the Multimedia Super Corridor project and its flagship applications as a test bed.
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1998

- Mahathir goes on two months' leave and appoints Anwar as acting prime minister from May 19.
- On Sept 1, Mahathir takes over the Finance Ministry, imposes a slew of capital/currency controls and pegs the ringgit to the greenback at RM3.80. The focus is rescue policies, recapitalisation and reflation to stabilise economic growth.
- On Sept 2, Mahathir sacks Anwar as deputy prime minister, finance minister and Umno member for failing to stabilise the economy. Mahathir says Anwar's subscription to International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s policies has clearly caused hardship to businesses and jeopardised the country's economic

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health and growth.

- The KL International Airport (KLIA) opens.
 - Malaysia hosts the Kuala Lumpur XVI '98 Commonwealth Games (Sept 11 to 21) and grabs 10 gold medals for its best ever performance in Games history.
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1999

- Mahathir appoints Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his new deputy, and hands over the Home Ministry.
 - For the fifth time, Mahathir leads BN to electoral victory and maintains the coalition's two-thirds mandate in Parliament. However, BN loses substantial Malay support. PAS continues to lead the Kelantan state government, and BN loses Terengganu, its second Malay-majority state.
 - Moves into Putrajaya, the federal government's new administrative capital.
 - Declares open the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest building.
 - Opens the 1,500-seat National Theatre (Istana Budaya).
 - Malaysia hosts the penultimate leg of the world Formula One Championship, the maiden Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix, at the Sepang International Circuit.
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2000

- Mahathir declares third Saturday of every month a holiday for civil servants.
 - Launches Proton Waja, the country's first locally-designed car.
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2001

- Mahathir parts ways with Tun Daim Zainuddin, his long-time friend and finance minister by allowing him to resign. Daim was also the treasurer of Umno for the 17 years. Mahathir takes over the portfolio of finance as well.
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2002

- Shocking delegates at the 56th Umno general assembly on June 22, Mahathir announces his resignation as prime minister and party president. Umno Supreme Council rejects his move and Mahathir is persuaded to stay on for another year to facilitate a smooth transition of power to Abdullah.
 - Chairs a special cabinet meeting to discuss the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English.
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2003

- Malaysia hosts the 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit for the 116-nation grouping in February.
- Malaysia hosts the 57-member nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (Oct 11 to 18). Mahathir's speech, which includes reference to the role of Jews, causes a stir around the world.
- Mahathir cautions a "second Malay dilemma" that may reverse the three decades of socio-economic progress under the New Economic Policy (NEP) and National Development Policy (NDP).
- Oct 20-21: Attends his last Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Bangkok.