

AT WORK: In his Putrajaya office

HIS LIFE AND TIMES

[1925] Born in Kedah state to lower-middle-class parents. His father was headmaster of an English-language school and a stern disciplinarian

[1947] Given a partial scholarship by the British colonial government to study medicine in Singapore. While a medical student, he wrote extensive anti-colonial commentaries in Malay newspapers under a pen-name

[1953-57] Graduates from medical school and returns to Malaya. Goes on to become the first Malay to open up a private medical practice, and the Malay with the biggest car in the city of Alor Star—a Pontiac

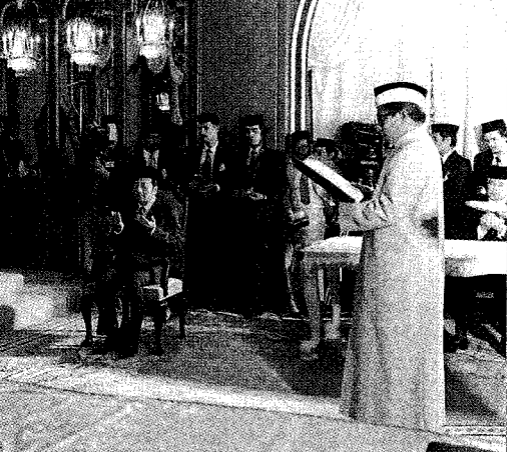
[1957] Britain grants independence to Malaya

[1963] Malaysia is formed, taking in Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore. (Singapore pulls out in 1965)

[1964] Mahathir wins his first parliamentary seat, representing Alor Star, capital of Kedah

[1969] Saying he does not need Chinese votes to win his seat again, Mahathir loses in an election. In an inflammatory letter he tells Premier Tunku Abdul Rahman he is too soft on Malaysia's Chinese, which gets Mahathir expelled from the ruling United Malays National Organization (Umno)

[1970] From the political wilderness he writes *The Malay Dilemma*, in



NEW LEADER: Swearing-in ceremony

which he criticizes the Malays for failing to advance themselves. The book is promptly banned in Malaysia, and Mahathir's application to rejoin Umno is rejected

[1972] After Tunku's resignation, Mahathir rejoins Umno

[1974] Elected an MP again. Prime Minister Abdul Razak appoints him minister of education

[1976] After Razak's death, the



1981: Hussein Onn and his successor

new premier, Hussein Onn, appoints Mahathir as his deputy

[1978] Chosen as deputy president of Umno; he is now premier-in-waiting

[1981] Mahathir takes over as prime minister from Hussein Onn. He lifts the ban on *The Malay Dilemma*

[1985] Mahathir's vision of creating a Malaysian national car comes to fruition as the first Proton Saga rolls off the production line



VISION:
Malaysia's
Proton Waja

Bazuki Muhammad/Reuters

[1985] In Mahathir's first major challenge as premier, Malaysia is hit by recession, with double-digit unemployment. He responds with fiscal austerity measures and by relaxing affirmative-action laws

[1986] A period of political struggle begins as Deputy Premier Musa Hitam resigns, citing "irreconcilable differences" with Mahathir

[1987] Confronted at the Umno assembly, Mahathir narrowly staves off a challenge for the Umno presidency. He responds with a crackdown on the opposition, arresting over 100 people and suspending three newspapers. After the courts affirm a petition by the opposition that dissolves Umno, Mahathir begins a crackdown on the judiciary

[1988-1997] Malaysia booms at average growth rates of over 8.5%

FAREWELL, DR. M



BLACK EYE: Anwar and supporters

[1991] Mahathir outlines the path for making Malaysia a developed country by 2020

[1995] He introduces the concept of a Malaysian Silicon Valley—the Multimedia Super Corridor

[1998] Malaysia is hit by the Asian Crisis; he imposes capital controls and pegs the ringgit to the U.S. dollar

[1998] He sacks his deputy of five years, Anwar Ibrahim, for “moral misconduct”

[1998-2000] Anwar is tried and sentenced to a total of 15 years in prison on charges of abuse of power and sodomy. He claims innocence, describing a “high-level conspiracy”



THE WORD: Mahathir says he'll go

[June, 2002] In an emotional presentation to Umno at the party's annual assembly, Mahathir says he'll retire. He makes plans to step down by October 2003 and says he will hand over power to Deputy Premier Abdullah Ahmad Badawi