

**CRISIS  
OF  
MALAY CONFIDENCE**

PUSTAKA PERDANA



1000765



PERDANA  
LEADERSHIP  
FOUNDATION  
YAYASAN  
KEPIMPINAN  
PERDANA

## Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Section I</b>	
<b>THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Section II</b>	
<b>MENTAL FRAMEWORK</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Section III</b>	
<b>MENTAL UPHEAVAL</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Section IV</b>	
<b>A CALL FOR MEDICATION</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Section V</b>	
<b>PROPOSALS AND CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>102</b>

1st. Edition — July, 1986

Printed by:  
**Syarikat Hussien Sheikh Mohd.**  
Jalan Sek. Men. Kbg. Kerian  
Kelantan.



## CRISIS OF MALAY CONFIDENCE

Arifin Azahari grew up in Kota Bharu, Kelantan. He left school at the age of sixteen, did G.C.E. correspondence course and later set off overseas. He subsequently obtained an Honours degree in international politics from Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.

On returning home to Malaysia, he became disillusioned with Malaysian politics because of widespread corruption and the empty promises made by elected political representatives to woo ignorant voters.

He has since turned to business. Starting with an accountancy course, he then gained business experiences ranging from restaurants, hardware and construction to carpet manufacturing and lumbering, either working as an employee or managing his own companies.

Arifin Azahari is currently working on another book about the Malay: "The New Economic Policy — A Betrayal."



PERDANA  
LEADERSHIP  
FOUNDATION  
YAYASAN  
KEPIMPINAN  
PERDANA

## Foreword

The United States, Western Europe, Japan and other developed countries have long been industrialised. Developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are also clamouring for industrialisation. Everybody believes that industrialisation is a good thing and no one wants to be left behind. The race for modern economic development is on, irrespective of the countries' socio-economic levels.

But development does not start with bulldozers or assembly plants. It starts with people. This is why development cannot be forced, cannot be ordered, cannot be comprehensively planned. It requires a process of evolution. Yet Malaysian development planners seem to think that they can do better than the Almighty, that they can transform the traditional Malay society into an industrial community overnight by a process called planning. The ruling philosophy over the last two decades has been that the modern sector, which covers only twenty per cent of the population,

can be expanded to absorb virtually the whole remaining eighty per cent of the rural population fairly quickly. It is completely absurd. The Malay people who reside in the rural areas and small towns require gradual change of their life.

Until they are industrialised, modern economic activities undertaken by them as required by the New Economic Policy will promote unhealthy development. Such activities will not only remain as a foreign body to the Malays that is difficult to integrate but also further exacerbate their problems. Our first task is therefore to recognise and establish the boundaries and limitations which the pre-industrial Malay community imposes on effective participation in modern economic development. The paucity of Malay entrepreneurs is mainly the result of improper understanding of the penetration of sophisticated industrial technology into an unsophisticated Malay social and economic environment. This is essential that the Malays should start business activities that are less technological. In this way familiarity with systematic, technical modes of production will spread over the entire Malay

population and the supply of the required talent will increase.

This book could not have been produced without the help of Encik Shafiq, who checked the final draft. For this, I am very grateful to him.

Kota Bharu,  
Kelantan.  
July, 1986.



PERDANA  
LEADERSHIP  
FOUNDATION  
YAYASAN  
KEPIMPINAN  
PERDANA



PERDANA  
LEADERSHIP  
FOUNDATION  
YAYASAN  
KEPIMPINAN  
PERDANA

## THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

We cast no doubt about the tremendous interest of the world community in the economic suffering of the less fortunate people in the developing countries. Their problems are discussed and programmes for their amelioration are laid out in the working plans of several development agencies established by the United Nations. In the developing countries themselves the quest for modern economic development is enormous. In fact the word "modern" is a household utterance even among the illiterates of the developing countries' population. The surge of economic development is without doubt gathering strength.

Malaysia, as a developing country, is not excluded from such a race even though the word "modernity" is barely understood by a large percentage of her 14 million population. Whatever the side-effects, Malaysia has already committed her manpower, material resources and finance to rapid economic development. The Government has pledged its promotion, and therefore reversing gear is considered not feasible. It has already

gripped the minds of several million Malaysians, even though its concept was hatched in the Western world.

Modern economic development is not indigenous to Malaysia because, as stated above, it originated in Western Europe. It started there as the Europeans seemed to have acquired an instinct for self-government. This meant, for one thing, that the merchants in the major cities of Europe were capable of achieving a measure of control over their economic and commercial activities. This stood in sharp contrast to the failure of the older Asian societies to do so, despite the fact that they were by that time the centres of wealth, creative arts and skill.

Another important characteristic subsisting in Western society that was considered essential in the realization of modern economic development was energy and enterprise. It was rooted right from the beginning in the Western world. They were thirsty not just for knowledge, but were concerned with its practical application. Such creative energy born out of curiosity helped to explain why Leonardo da Vinci saw in mathematics both the secret of natural energy and the