

TERESA KOK

Partner in Democracy

by Roshan Jason



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This book is dedicated to all parents who support their children's passion and dreams of making a difference in the world. It is also specially dedication to my mother Dorothy Jacob.

- RJ



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Preface:

My Latest Political Journey (2008-2012)

As Malaysia draws nearer to the 13th General Election, the time comes for representatives of the rakyat and politicians to reflect on, and take stock of, what we have done for the nation and our voters. We need to ensure that those relying on us have been given enough attention and support. In doing so, I have been encouraged to share the achievements, lessons and struggles with not just my constituents but also a wider readership.

As 2008 began with the 12th General Election, and thereafter the political tsunami which washed over the nation, I found myself faced with the daunting yet exciting challenge of working for the rakyat in new capacities – that of an ADUN for Kinrara, State Exco for Selangor and of course my all too familiar role of MP for Seputeh. As the years passed since that fateful day on 8 March, I have gone through many new experiences and as well faced a repeat of many old occurrences within the unique Malaysian political realm.

This book helps me share with my supporters, and of course those critics keeping a watchful eye over politicians from Pakatan Rakyat, some of what has transpired over the past four years. It certainly has not been a smooth ride for my Pakatan colleagues and I since winning so much support in 2008. However, I am confident that I have done all I can, and more, to be available to my constituents, as well as the people of Selangor and Malaysia in general. I have strived towards solving your problems and fighting for your rights.

With this, I am told that it doesn't hurt to put on paper some examples and selected scenarios of the efforts put in to being a representative of the rakyat.

Given my towering responsibilities on all three public fronts, I have been unable to afford the luxury of time to pen this book down personally. However, I am grateful that there has been a strong editorial team assisting me in delivering this book to you with my input and guidance. It is with sincere hope that you, the reader, are able to gather an account of the triumphs my colleagues and I have met (at constituency, state and national level) and appreciate some of the trials that come with it. I wish you all a pleasant read.

Author's Note:



The Deserving People's Representative

What makes a good politician? What are the key values that are needed for a person to effectively serve a constituency and to successfully participate in the leading of a state and nation? How and when do we recognise worthy politicians and deliver them to positions of national leadership?

These are among some of the questions and debates that Malaysians, including me, grapple with when it is time to mark the 'X' on ballot sheets come an election. How then does a voter decide and make the 'right' choice? Many of us are unable to obtain accurate, or in some cases any, information on our given choice of candidates – especially if the candidate is from the 'opposition' political party - in a country like Malaysia.

Government-controlled media all too often only highlight and promote the on-goings and 'successes' of the current ruling political camp. During the periods between general elections, opposition parties, its leaders and its elected representatives hardly gain any positive coverage in the mainstream media.

The times that they do make it to the 'news of the day' is when it is to serve the government's propaganda of fear. This repeatedly happens through information that is maliciously demeaning and discrediting to the opposition – all too often based on half-truths and manipulation of the facts. This phenomenon is even more evident during an election campaign period.

The *rakyat* deserve a fair account of the facts and figures when it comes to its choice of candidates, political parties and administrative representatives, especially on matters that affect Malaysians directly.

Crucial information is needed on whom in parliament, or the state assembly, has done what, and how it benefits the people. We want to know what the rationales are behind politicians' decisions and what they have to go through to make things happen for the nation's advancement.