

UNBELIEVABLY

STUPID!



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KEE THUAN CHYE



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PUSTAKA PERDANA



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Petaling Jaya, Malaysia



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KEE

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO
MY WIFE, LIM CHOY WAN,
AND MY CHILDREN,
SORAYA SUNITRA KEE XIANG YIN AND
JEBAT ARJUNA KEE JIA LIANG,
AND TO ALL MALAYSIANS
WHO BELIEVE IN TRUTH
AND WANT THE COUNTRY'S LEADERS
TO GIVE US
THE TRUTH,
THE WHOLE TRUTH
AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH
- OR ELSE!

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Preface

Malaysia is going to the dogs, led by a desperate demagogue who misuses his power to silence his critics and to C4 allegations of corruption and wrongdoing against him.

Many of us feel helpless. Our dream of a better Malaysia is being crushed. Some Malaysians are even getting weary of the massive political bullshit that is thrown at us every day.

But we must not give up. We must continue to fight for the present and the future. And as we are doing so, we could relieve our stress a little by having some laughs – at the very government that is bringing us to the brink of disaster.

That's what has motivated me to bring out this book, documenting the laughable stupidity of public officials, politicians and others. I have recorded as many instances as I can of things done or words said over the years that could have us either ROTF or at least break out in a grin.

It was painstaking and time-consuming researching the instances, checking and counter-checking the facts, especially of instances that happened many years ago. I'm so thankful I could rely on the Internet, particularly Google, to help facilitate most of the research.

Also helpful were the books *Malaysian Politicians Say the Darndest Things Vol. 1* and *Vol. 2*. I'd like to thank my old friend Amir Muhammad, the publisher of both, for giving me a complimentary copy of the second book when I requested it of him to help my research.



XII Unbelievably Stupid!

I have to admit that although putting together *Unbelievably Stupid!* called for a lot of work, I also derived much pleasure from laughing at the antics of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues.

There's so much comedy and comic stupidity coming out of Putrajaya, it's truly unbelievable! And yet it's real. It's what I would call 'reality comedy'. This makes me wonder whether Putrajaya is the administrative capital of Malaysia or its comedy capital.

Not all the comedy included in the book, however, is provided by the people in government; some of it comes from politicians from both the ruling party as well as the Opposition, and also from leaders of NGOs, civil servants and the police.

But what are we supposed to take away from all this? Just funny ha-ha moments, just some entertainment? I hope not. In fact, some of the comedy is quite dark, in the sense that the words or actions of the people who generated them can have insidious effects on our society.

I therefore strongly feel that we should learn from all this material about how people in positions of power or influence operate, about the temperaments of people who would delude us into thinking that they have what it takes to lead us when they don't, about the levels of intellect or cunning that underlie their words and actions as they twist logic to serve their ulterior agenda.

Furthermore, I feel that by understanding all this, we can see more clearly the corrupt political culture that pervades our daily lives.

So, the purpose of putting this book together is not just to make fun of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet and assorted



others and thereby gain some relief from the stress generated by their exasperating politics but, more importantly, to expose their hidden motives and thereby to remind them that we the people are not so stupid as to buy their bullshit, and to clarify to ourselves that if we have people like them doing what they do, we should be ready and willing to point them wrong – and kick them out.

I'd like to thank all those who have helped make this book a reality. They include Gerakbudaya Enterprise for taking on the publication, its managing director Chong Ton Sin, its publications officer Sherly Kusumasetiadi, the layout and cover designer Janice Cheong, and my friend Stan Lee Cheow Hee who essentially did me a huge favour by agreeing to contribute his experience and expertise through drawing the cartoons on the book's cover and its inside pages.

I'd also like to thank my old schoolmate Khoo Chuan Keat for having been a strong supporter of my books and for being there for me when I need his help.

Thanks also go to *Malaysiakini* and *Yahoo! Malaysia* for being the original publishers of the half-dozen articles included in this volume.

Last but not least, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the readers who have bought and read my books over the years and spoken or written to me to give me encouragement.

It is for you and for a better Malaysia that I keep going.

KEE THUAN CHYE

August 2015

KING OF COMEDY



Shoot the boat people!

The one laughable Government blooper that I vividly remember from decades ago arose from the horrific statement made in June 1979 by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad. None other!

Mahathir reportedly said the Government would prevent Vietnamese refugees from setting foot on our shores by shooting them. It went on to create such an international uproar that the





Prime Minister, Hussein Onn, had to come out and say that Mahathir was not expressing 'the official stand'.

After that, the Foreign Minister, Ghazali Shafie, declared that Mahathir had actually said 'shoo', not 'shoot'!

Surely, if indeed Mahathir had not said 'shoot', it would not have required the PM to publicly distance the Government from his deputy's statement, so was Ghazali talking bullshit?

In an editorial I wrote for *The National Echo* on June 20, 1979, I lambasted Mahathir's call to shoot the refugees for 'having caused undue embarrassment'. I knew from that point on that Mahathir was bad news. And I was very apprehensive when he became PM. But he would eventually become my favourite PM ... er, to take potshots at.

I have since whacked Najib Razak a lot more, but Mahathir is the one I cherish whacking the most. I also satirise him in a few of my plays, namely, *1984 Here and Now*, *The Big Purge* and *We Could **** You, Mr Birch*.

Anwar gave himself a black eye!

On September 20, 1998, after Anwar Ibrahim was arrested and taken to the Bukit Aman lock-up, he was beaten up while blindfolded and handcuffed. Nine days later, when he appeared in court to answer charges of corruption and sodomy, he was seen with a black eye and swollen face.

The Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, scoffed at it and said the wounds were 'self-inflicted'. *Alamak!* Mahathir should try giving himself a black eye to feel what it's like.

He also said Anwar would 'get plenty of mileage if he showed he was abused by police'. That of course revealed Mahathir's meanness and lack of statesmanship. No matter how much he hated Anwar, he should not, as a prime minister, have talked rubbish. Especially without having investigated it first.

As if to bolster her master's case and win his approbation, the International Trade and Industry Minister, Rafidah Aziz, reportedly suggested that Anwar could easily have got the black eye by 'cupping an empty glass' over it. Oh, what an imagination!

At the time, the person who had beaten Anwar and given him the black eye did not own up to his deed. On September 24, he even unashamedly lied in public that Anwar was 'safe and sound'. This despite the fact that for five days after the beating, Anwar received no treatment for his wounds although he requested it.



It was only at the royal commission of inquiry (RCI) into the assault in 1999 that Rahim Noor, who was the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) when Anwar was arrested, admitted that he was the assailant. This was five months after the incident took place. Apparently, his brutal act was provoked by what Anwar said when Rahim entered the lock-up: '*Ini dia bapa anjing*.' (Here comes the chief dog.)

Rahim was hauled to court in 2000, but the Attorney-General, Mohtar Abdullah, reduced the original charge – from causing grievous hurt (as recommended by the RCI) to just causing hurt. *Wah lan eh*, got give chance one!



Rahim was eventually sentenced to two months' imprisonment and fined RM2,000. In 2005, he apologised publicly to Anwar.

DAP leader Lim Kit Siang called on Mahathir to 'admit the injustice and falsity of his allegation' and 'publicly and unreservedly tender his apologies to Anwar, his family and the entire country ... also for failing in his duties as Home Minister as represented by the scandal of Anwar's black eye while under police custody'.

But of course, Mahathir has done no such thing. For him, 'sorry' seems to be the hardest word.

'If they can make *Avatar*, they can make anything'

In 2010, Mahathir Mohamad shocked the world when he said that the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States that killed nearly 3,000 people could have been 'staged' as an excuse to demonise the Muslim world.

'I am not sure now that Muslim terrorists carried out these attacks. There is evidence that the attacks were staged,' he said.

And then he said something that made him the butt of jokes: 'If they can make *Avatar*, they can make anything.'

How naïve, stupid and laughable to make a connection between a movie and a terrorist attack that killed so many people.

And how totally insensitive. This was like insulting a person who was already in grief for having lost loved ones.

Mahathir said there was evidence. What was it? He made no mention at all.

Instead, he threw in another dastardly statement: 'But whether real or staged, the 9/11 attacks have served the United States and Western countries well. They have an excuse to mount attacks on the Muslim world.'

How could he simply say these things?

I suppose that's why in my books, he cannot qualify to be a statesman. He's just a low-grade loose cannon.



A vote for the Opposition is a vote for Soros!

In October 2012, as Malaysians were waiting expectantly for Najib Razak to call the 13th general election (GE13), Mahathir said something for which he deserved to be called 'senile'.

He said a vote for the Opposition pact, Pakatan Rakyat, would be a vote for currency trader George Soros. And for recolonisation.

Soros was his nemesis in currency speculation, but there was no cause for Mahathir to say what he said.

The only reason he gave to justify it was that Soros was like Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim in being fond of the term 'civil society'. That tenuous link between the two men was enough for Mahathir to draw a big conclusion!

He accused Soros of funding efforts to bring about regime change in Malaysia, 'to put his nominees as prime minister and ministers in the Malaysian government'.

'If there are Malaysians who wish to be recolonised, it is their choice. But I believe Malaysians would not want to be stooges of foreigners.'

Responding to it, the DAP's Petaling Jaya Utara MP, Tony Pua, said 'that statement was made by someone who, in my opinion, is senile.'

'He (Mahathir) has lost his relevance, has soiled whatever is left of his good name and has added a bad perception for himself from the public in these recent years,' Pua added.

How to disagree with that?

IMDB DRAMEDY



Najib nowhere to be seen at 'Nothing2Hide'

On June 5, 2015, the forum 'Nothing2Hide', organised by NGO SukaGuam to be held at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), was to provide Najib Razak a platform to answer questions about the troubled Government-owned strategic development company, 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

But the day before the forum, word got out that Mahathir Mohamad would be attending. Mahathir had become 1MDB's fiercest critic, so it looked like he and Najib could be headed for a showdown.

With expectations running high, the PWTC hall was packed to the brim with about 2,000 people present. The event was scheduled to start at 10am, but Mahathir was already at the venue at 8.50am. Having attacked 1MDB for months and also urged Najib to resign for its alleged mismanagement and high incursion of debts, to the tune of a staggering RM42 billion, Mahathir appeared the eager beaver ready for a face-off.

To everyone's surprise, however, at 8.53am, the IGP Khalid Abu Bakar suddenly sent out a tweet calling for the event to be cancelled – for security reasons!

The organisers and the people who had turned up were stumped. What security threat did the forum pose?

The organisers negotiated with the police to let the event go on. Najib, meanwhile, didn't look like he was coming.



Apparently, the IGP had advised him not to. Then at around 10.30am, Mahathir went on stage to address the audience. But after several minutes, the police stopped him from continuing. The crowd was infuriated. Some of them had come from as far as Johor and Perlis.

The online newsmagazine *The Heat* reported that a Pekida (Pertubuhan Kebajikan dan Dakwah Islamiah) leader bellowed, 'This is Umno building. And Najib is the PM, president of Umno. Why is he listening to the IGP? Who is more powerful – the IGP or PM?'

The order to cancel the forum was a stupid move. It merely gave opportunity for Mahathir to steal the show and be lionised. He was cheered, and followed out of the building by the crowd. It also further alienated people from Najib.

The cancellation reinforced the notion that instead of having nothing to hide, Najib was too shit scared to face the people. Speculation spread that he could have been the one who instructed the IGP to get the event cancelled, especially since the latter overstepped his bounds in doing so. Lawyers castigated Khalid for acting without basis, for trying to protect Najib and also for violating the people's democratic right to know more about the 1MDB scandal.

Khalid, however, maintained, 'It was my decision to call off the event. ... The threat to security was serious enough that I had to put a stop to it.'

What was the threat? Apparently, two opposing groups were planning to create chaos at the forum. Well, if that was the case, he could have posted more police personnel at the venue and allowed the forum to go on. That's the way to do it, isn't it? After all, isn't it the job of the police to provide security?



Asked who the groups were, he replied, 'I don't have to explain who the groups are; it is enough that I received credible information about them.' Wah! Like that one ah? Got something to hide ah? Kekekeke!

As for the no-show Najib, what did he have to say? 'I am always ready and committed to meet and dialogue with NGOs on matters pertaining to the country and society,' he posted on his website. 'However, such meetings must take place in a calm and good manner so that it can lead to a discussion beneficial to all of us.'

It sounded lame. In any case, however he put it, he came off the loser.

Unfortunately, he also made Mahathir look the winner, and that I didn't welcome. I was concerned that the wily old codger was gaining more mileage out of the event than he deserved. He was getting hero-worshipped for jumping on the 1MDB wagon that Opposition politicians Tony Pua and Rafizi Ramli had got rolling in the first place. They were the ones who had initially exposed 1MDB's dubious dealings and, to me, they were the heroes for doing so. But, unfortunately, Mahathir seemed to have hijacked their wagon and was steaming ahead with it to fulfil his own agenda.

I felt I had to write the following article, which was published in *Malaysiakini*:



Why We Must Not Lionise Mahathir

By Kee Thuan Chye

(Malaysiakini, June 7, 2015)

It's alarming that Mahathir Mohamad is fast becoming a hero in the eyes of many, especially after the 'Nothing to Hide' forum on June 5 that ended in a fiasco because the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) called a halt to it.

As the fiercest critic of Prime Minister Najib Razak's brainchild 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), the old man had come to the forum to listen to Najib's explanation on what was happening with the troubled company. Malaysians expected a face-off between the two, and about 2,000 people gathered at the forum venue hoping to see a real-life drama.

But that drama did not take place. Najib failed to show up, apparently on the advice of the IGP who feared a threat to public order. Most of the crowd was pissed off by the cancellation of the event, and cheered when Mahathir took to the stage instead.

The wily codger milked his moment at the podium. He seized it as an opportunity to run down Najib even more and make himself appear the spokesperson for Malaysians who are concerned about the 1MDB scandal. 'I come here to speak on something that is missing, that belongs to all of us,' he cleverly said, referring to the billions of ringgit that 1MDB needs to account for.

When the police told him to stop speaking after several minutes, it made him look even more noble. He won sympathy and support. He came across as a victim of police power. That should not have been the case, however. When Mahathir was prime minister, he himself inflicted the power of the police on dissenting citizens. So, really, he was getting a taste of his own medicine this time. But, sadly, people failed to acknowledge or remember that.



In fact, the new drama that unfolded at the forum was something that suited Mahathir perfectly. Immediately after he was stopped from speaking, he cleverly asked the police for permission to speak to the media. At the ensuing press conference, he craftily exploited the situation to his own advantage. He protested that he was just an ordinary man. 'I can't do anything to anybody, I don't carry arms, why should people be afraid of me?'

To milk the powerless-little-man idea further, he said, 'The police came up to me when I was talking and told me to stop. So I stopped. I am a very obedient citizen.'

When he was eventually escorted out of the forum venue to his waiting car, no wonder the crowd swarmed around him. He had become the living embodiment of the man who spoke up for them but was stopped from doing so by the powers that be. Some chanted repeatedly, 'Long live Mahathir!'

To Najib's detriment, some shouted, 'Where is Najib? He is hiding!'

Images of Mahathir's 'heroism' popped up in social media almost immediately in stills and videos. At the same time, netizens denounced Najib as a 'coward' for not showing up at the forum. They even theorised that he had developed cold feet at the thought of facing Mahathir and got the IGP to save him by stopping the forum.

No amount of insistence-till-blue-in-face to the contrary by Khalid Abu Bakar – whose credibility as the country's top cop has dropped incrementally for his ludicrous words and actions in the last two years – could make thinking Malaysians change their belief that Najib's blood, which he himself had proudly described as 'not just any blood', was probably chicken blood.

They also had a field day making fun of his claim, 'I have a warrior's spirit.' One netizen tweeted, 'Can you imagine a warrior declaring war and not turn up for the first battle? LOL!'



It is really tragic for Malaysians that because we have such a weak prime minister in Najib that Mahathir is able to capitalise on the situation in order to worm his way back into the public's good books.

It is really tragic that there should arise a 1MDB scandal of such mega proportions to give Mahathir the chance to use it to gain the public's forgiveness for his past misdeeds.

It is really sad to see Malaysians cheer Mahathir when he calls on the police to investigate 1MDB when instead they should be telling the old man that during his tenure as prime minister, investigations were not conducted on the misuse of billions of the public's ringgit in the Perwaja Scandal, the Port Klang Free Trade Zone (PKFZ) scandal, the Tajuddin Ramli bailout, the alleged losses in currency speculation, just to name a few cases.

Why didn't he say then that all that money 'belongs to all of us'? How did it get lost under his watch? As prime minister, was he not responsible? Is he now the pot calling Najib the kettle black?

And yet he gets standing ovations at forums when he speaks out against 1MDB and Najib. And people inundate his blog seeking his 'wisdom'. And on social media, people say they are willing to forgive him his past sins if he can manage to 'save' Malaysia.

Save Malaysia? The man who introduced the culture of fear when he was in control of the country for 22 years; who divided and polarised the races; who undermined the judiciary; who did not terminate the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1990 according to schedule; who introduced the negotiated contract and promoted cronyism; who set in place the system that Najib is now benefiting from?

Look closely at his statements of the last few months and perhaps we might see his real agenda. They are not only critical of Najib, 1MDB, the Altantuya murder case, Najib's

You never thought politics could be hilarious, did you? Well, this book will change your mind.

Written by no-bullshit humorist Kee Thuan Chye, *Unbelievably Stupid!* is a laugh a page. He shows how Malaysian politicians, public officials and even leaders of right-wing NGOs can appear like buffoons ... when they say stupid things or try to deceive or make about-turns or, worst of all, lie.

Indeed, it happens so often that Putrajaya must surely be called the Comedy Capital of the World.

After you've gone through this book, you'll never look at a Cabinet minister or a top civil servant or even the Prime Minister with blind reverence again.

Kee Thuan Chye is the author of the bestsellers 'No More Bullshit, Please, We're All Malaysians' and 'Ask for No Bullshit, Get Some More!'



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