

TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

THE ART OF STATESMANSHIP



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PUSTAKA PERDANA



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Yayasan Wiba Prima (PPAB-06/2004)
Suite 59-3, Kompleks Udarama, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah,
50350 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 011-5665 9545
Office: 03-4051 2175
E-mail: yayasanwibaprima@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/YayasanWibaPrima

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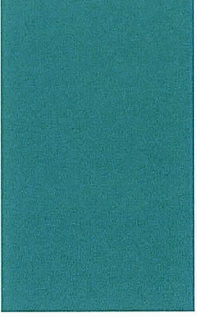
Researcher:
Muhammad Ezzat Adnan
Abdul Mukmin Zulkifli

Photographer:
Mohd. Safuan Salahudin

Special Contributors:
Haji Shaarani Abdul Rahman
Datin Latifah Haji Ismail
Mohd Hairul Azizi Amat Tokimin
Sofia Ahmad Shahir

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FOREWORD

THE TIGER OF ASIA: A JOURNEY OF PROGRESS TOLD THROUGH ARTIFACTS

TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

Malaysia's Former Prime Minister

My first tenure as the Prime Minister of Malaysia spanned for 22 years. During that period, I received gifts and many invaluable artifacts – signifying close diplomatic relationships with many nations apart from being tokens of appreciation. Though these priceless gifts were presented to my wife and me, they were also, to a large extent, given to me because I was the Prime Minister of Malaysia. I consider I had accepted these gifts on behalf of all Malaysians.

Towards the end of my tenure, I felt the need to show that these gifts belong to the people. I suggested that they should be exhibited in a kind of museum. Thus, the Galeria Perdana Langkawi. The gallery is to display and share with fellow Malaysians and tourists the various awards, gifts and artifacts that my wife and I had received throughout my 22-year period as the Prime Minister of the country.

This documentation had encouraged me to recount the events that coloured my experience as the fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia. It was as much a personal

journey as that of the nation. The collection provides some insights of the journey and what we had picked up along the way. This collection came from nations and leaders I met during my tenure. They are part of our history and they remind us that our country had attracted the attention of many leaders of the world.

There is a saying that those who forget the lessons of history will be condemned to repeat their mistakes over and over again.

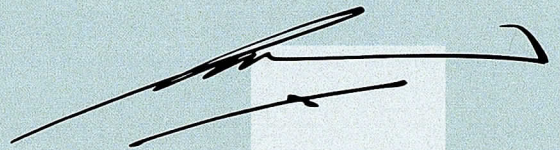
For those who lived through the past years, remembering the past and knowing the mistakes would shape our minds for the present and future.

But for the younger people, the past may not have been experienced. It would be difficult to regard as lessons for now and the future. But these exhibits may help in the understanding and appreciation of the past and the lessons to be learnt. And hopefully, the mistakes of the past will not be repeated.

I pray that these exhibits will serve their purpose.

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GUEST WRITERS

ARTIFACTS AND THE VALUES FOR THE COUNTRY

SHAHIRA AHMED BAZARI

Managing Director,
Yayasan Hasanah

On behalf of Yayasan Hasanah, I would like to congratulate Yayasan Wiba Prima on completing this pilot project of documenting the many artifacts in Galeria Perdana Langkawi. Our heartiest appreciation to all the different organisations; from Galeria Perdana Langkawi, Jabatan Muzium Malaysia, Universiti Utara Malaysia, and the various agencies for helping out to support this initiative and ride along this journey.

Undoubtedly, as with any project, the journey has not always been smooth. Yet we remained steadfast and committed to completing this document as we believe that it will serve as a platform for the potential documentation of other leaders and statesmen in this region. During his first term as Prime Minister of Malaysia, which lasted for 22 years, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad was the pride of the country – to such an extent that he was bestowed with numerous gifts that reflected his achievements as a leader. In reality, many accolades and significant events related to the history of the country

are connected to the many artifacts now on display at Galeria Perdana Langkawi.

Due to limited knowledge combined with the lack of adequate documentation of such items, we hope that this document will serve as a catalyst for future endeavours to strengthen the process of documenting these objects. Let this be a starting point for better documentation of our leaders and the nation's history.

This document also presents an initiative to highlight and preserve the national heritage, as a handful of artifacts that Tun Dr. Mahathir has received pay tribute to our culture and heritage. This documentation not only ensures that our national culture and heritage are not lost in the sands of time but can also provide as a reference for those who are studying leadership. Through knowing the significance of each item and being aware of events, one would be able to grasp the essence that makes Tun Dr. Mahathir a visionary leader.

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TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD GALERIA PERDANA: REFLECTION OF A FIGHTING STATESMAN'S JOURNEY OF PERSEVERANCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PROF. DATO' DR. AHMAD BASHAWIR BIN HAJI ABDUL GHANI

Vice-Chancellor
Universiti Utara Malaysia

Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has carved an illustrious career as a politician and a national leader that heralded an era of social and technological developments in Malaysia. His achievements attracted both admirations and criticisms. His unwavering desire to see his countrymen enjoy the same level of social, political and economic developments seen in the developed countries took him on the national and international paths that, at times, are mired with challenges that would have easily confounded others. In recognition of his sterling achievements, Tun Dr. Mahathir has been awarded with various awards and tokens of appreciation presented by heads of state and multinational organisations.

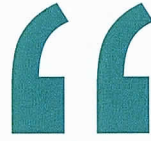
Celebrating the achievements of a great and visionary leader, The Tun Dr. Mahathir's Galeria Perdana is intended to inspire and educate its visitors by showcasing all the memorabilia, souvenirs and awards received by the fourth and seventh premier. It is dedicated to showcase a distinguished statesman's legacy

that helped shape Malaysia into a remarkable country. It encapsulates the intellectual, political, spiritual, and social acknowledgements of Tun Dr. Mahathir's commitment to serve a diverse community in Malaysia. The expansive yet unique collections of state awards and souvenirs on display are clear reflections of the admirations, respect and adulations accorded to Tun Dr. Mahathir by various heads of state from the western and eastern bloc countries as well as from far-flung countries with different religious beliefs and political backgrounds. It is not simply a showcase of stunning and significant artworks, but also a journey through history – individual, institutional, national and regional – and a rich collection of stories and personalities.

Galeria Perdana has succeeded in offering a deeper understanding of Tun Dr. Mahathir's philosophical contribution and vision to the public. The displays tell us about the personal character of the person, including his political and social cultural beliefs, and philosophical thoughts. The collections also reflect the narratives and

achievements of Tun Dr. Mahathir's governance. As an affirmative leader, he is able to express himself fully, knows what he wants, why he wants it, and is able to communicate what he wants to others in order to gain their co-operation and support. This is achieved on a foundation of firm, unchanging, fundamental belief in the truth. Tun Dr. Mahathir makes his decisions by following the dictates of his own moral compass. He is not a relativist; he believes in absolute truths, and his moral compass is rooted in a sense of absolute right and absolute wrong. When something is wrong, he plainly says that it is wrong and does everything in his power to fight against it. These are the hallmarks of a truly great leader.

It is not easy to convince countries and organisational leaders, who are of different political and religious beliefs, to agree with your views and ideas. During his illustrious premiership term spanning from 1981 till 2003, and a new watershed term beginning in 2018, Tun Dr. Mahathir was recognised for his liberal hospitality, firm friendship, and affable and courteous manners; the natural results of a generous heart and broad mind. With these personality traits, Tun Dr. Mahathir had not only successfully led Malaysia regionally, but was also able to represent the Third World countries in fighting for equitable and sustainable development. Tun Dr. Mahathir is a vehement advocate of the Muslim ummah plight, and has won respect and adulation from Muslim countries. His noble notion of equal partnerships has resulted in productive collaborations with leading global institutions such as Japan and South Korea.



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The Galeria Perdana is a museum that is a must-visit for visitors when in the island of Langkawi. The tributes received by Tun Dr. Mahathir from countless international heads of state and multinational organisations are a mere outline of an individual whose sacrifices are entitled to esteem and regard, and whose leadership and characters could only receive adequate justice from equally intelligent, enlightened and comprehensive international admirers. Galeria Perdana is indeed a tribute to his resolution, defiance, magnanimity and goodwill, for his achievements are the nation's greatest asset.



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