

THE
COMMENTARIES *of*
Tun Dr Mahathir's
Postage Stamps



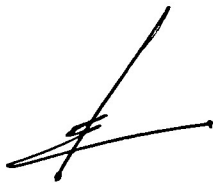
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PUSTAKA PERDANA



1013484

ILHAM BOOKS
Kuala Lumpur
2024



**THE COMMENTARIES OF
TUN DR MAHATHIR'S POSTAGE STAMPS**

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First Published in 2024 by

ILHAM BOOKS (002683798-H)
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Nilai Square, 71800 Nilai
Negeri Sembilan, MALAYSIA

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ISBN: 978-967-0067-16-2

Printed by Firdaus Press Sdn. Bhd.
No. 28, Jalan PBS 14/4, Taman Perindustrian Bukit Serdang,
43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor

978-967-0067-16-2

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my special gratitude to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohammad for reading through the draft of this book, and more importantly, his approval on the subject matters covered in the commentaries, especially the commentaries on himself.

I also extend my deep appreciation to Tun Dr Mahathir for putting forth a strongly-worded Forward for this book. Through the Forward, he is the first world's leader who squarely blamed the Zionist in America and Israel for planning and executing the controlled demolition procedures that caused the horrific collapse of Twin Towers in New York on September 11, 2001.

I am grateful to Wan Hazmi Wan Mustafa, my former senior officer at the DRB-Hicom Berhad, who tirelessly helped me in looking into the accuracy of facts and figures of all commentaries. Using software application tools, he also had tremendously improved the English grammar of this book.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Dato' Mohd Nor Mohamad, my fellow former Senior Group Director at the DRB-Hicom Berhad, who had read the draft of the book and had suggested numerous insights and improvements.

I am grateful to Tan Sri Badariah Arshad and her staff at the Perdana Leadership Foundation (PLF) for all the assistance in publishing this book. I have obtained some photos for this book from the library of the PLF.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the staff of the Administration Section of the Prime Minister's Office who helped me to collect about 580 colourful postage stamps from Malaysia and 29 other countries.

Lastly, I am ever grateful to my wife, Ungku Fatimah U. A. Hamid, and my children – Asrul Fazim, Farah Asnor, Asri Fazim, Ashraf Fazim and Farihin Asnur – for their moral support.

DATUK ABU SAMAH BACHIK

THE FORWARD

In 2011, I had written in my book, *A Doctor In The House*, that the September 11 attacks on the Twin Towers in New York were ‘an elaborately staged drama’. With that in mind, the two commentaries in the Second Chapter of this book related to the September 11 attacks have attracted my close attention.

Twin Towers Collapsed by Controlled Demolition Procedures by CIA

A few thousands of American architects and engineers, who are members of the ‘Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth’ organisation, have technically confirmed beyond doubt that the collapse of the Twin Towers was caused by controlled demolition procedures. They have established ten technical criteria to prove their contention; and as many as seven of the criteria are fully supported by numerous videos available in the internet, and the other three criteria by evidences at the site.

In 2017, a ‘death-bed’ confession by a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent confirmed that the controlled demolition procedures were planned and executed by the CIA. Logically, the CIA was the only body having a capacity to execute such procedures that caused a catastrophic collapse of the Twin Towers. It boasts: ‘We accomplish what others cannot and go where others cannot go’.

George W Bush Approved the Attacks

The huge, intricate and complex exercise could be approved only by one person: the President. For this, George W Bush just could not deny his involvement in approving the attacks by the CIA. His speeches and actions after the collapse of the towers had reflected the depth of his involvement.

After the Cold War: The US Attacked the Muslim World

After the Cold War ended in late 1991, the United States had attacked the Muslim world under three names: firstly, wars against terrorism; secondly, regime changes; and lastly, the Arab Spring. Admittedly, the attacks against the Muslim countries, especially in the Middle East, was an enormous and gigantic exercise. For that, the US had put up an unthinkable reasoning for the attacks: it attacked its very own Twin Towers, when all American TV stations and other mainstream mass media drummed up a cry 'America Under Attack!!!!'. Not only the Americans, but also the whole world believed that America was really under attack by the Al-Qaeda.

Planning such massive attacks most probably involved the 'brainy but heartless' group; and the brainy but heartless group was the Zionists in America and Israel. Their singular objective was to hobble the Muslim world, especially in the Middle East, by destabilising their governments. The Zionists had proven their capability to manipulate the United States government to go to wars which resulted in the blood of many American men and women being shed.

To condemn The United States as The World's Worst Terrorist Nation

For more than two decades, the United States government has managed to make the world blame only the Al-Qaeda as the terrorists for the horrific collapse of the Twin Towers. For that period too, the United States has shamed the Muslim world.

Today, the world learns the truth: the United States government inflicted a fatal self-injury to put up an unthinkable reasoning for it to attack the Muslim world. This legitimises the Israeli attack against the Muslims.

It is therefore high time for the world to condemn the United States for being so weak as to be manipulated by the Zionists, and also to condemn it as the world's worst terrorist nation.

DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD

18 July 2023



THE PREFACE

While doing a spring cleaning at the height of the coronavirus pandemic in the middle of 2021, I found an old stamp album stacked in my bookrack. The album has a collection of about 583 beautiful and colourful postage stamps of Malaysia and 29 other countries. The stamps were collected when I was serving at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for about 13 years, from 1982 to 1995. Since I am not a philatelist or professional stamp collector, the stamps in the album are not properly arranged.

By then, the Prime Minister was Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. He was the fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia, from July 1981 to October 2003, i.e., a period of 22 years. Later, at the age of 93, he was again appointed as Malaysia's seventh Prime Minister for a period of almost two years, from May 2018 to March 2020.

Though not professionally arranged, the stamps in the album evoke pleasant memories of Tun Dr Mahathir. He is old in age, 98-year-old in July 2023, but he is forever young with his cognitive health, and is still very sharp and eloquent. The pleasant memories include and encompass his commitment towards upholding numerous disciplines in his political life. Besides being disciplined, he is also very observant of numerous principles. Guided by those disciplines and principles, he had managed to provide a tough but effective leadership in transforming Malaysia from an agricultural to an industrial nation. In appreciation of those pleasant memories, there are several commentaries on Tun Dr Mahathir in this book.

Tun Dr Mahathir has made remarks and comments on the leadership of several countries. The United States of America, the Federation of Russia and the People's Republic of China are chosen as the remarks and comments made by Tun Dr Mahathir are very pertinent and relevant to the current geopolitical environment.

In the stamp album, there is a good collection of postage stamps from the United States. The stamps evoke memories about numerous critical comments made by Tun Dr Mahathir on the super power. In his book, *A Doctor In The House*, he has admitted that he could not stop criticising the United States, especially after the US invaded Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. To mark his criticism, there are several commentaries on the United States.

There are only two pieces of stamps from the Soviets Union, precursor of the Federation of Russia. In relation to this, Tun Dr Mahathir had, and even now, a very cordial relationship with the Russian President Vladimir Putin. Besides that, Russia has re-emerged as a superpower to check the hegemonic tendencies of the United States. Given these circumstances, there are also several commentaries on Russia in this book.

In this album, there are only two pieces of postage stamps from China. Tun Dr Mahathir had a close relationship with President Deng Xiaoping, the father of modern China. Besides that, China is expected to be the world's biggest economy by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2030, edging the United States down to second spot. However, since 2016, the International Monetary Fund has already recognised China as the world's biggest economy by purchasing power parity. Based on these attributes, there are also several commentaries on China.

Bearing in mind all the commentaries, it is hoped that the world will pursue to seek the truth, and justice, on the September 11 Attacks on the World Trade Centre (WTC) in New York. The world has been led by the United States to place the blame on only the Al-Qaeda; and by the same fraudulent token and lies, the United States has managed to shame the world's 1.4 billion Muslims. The truth is that the September 11 Attacks on the WTC and the

Pentagon were anchored by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States; and George Bush, the liar and murderer, was the main architect of the catastrophic attacks.

Accordingly, several relevant pages of the postage stamp album are enclosed in this book.

To provide an interactive feature for many of the commentaries, titles of related videos are listed at the end of the commentaries.

THE FIRST CHAPTER

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

1. The Introduction.
2. The Corruption: 'Kain Kapan' Has No Pockets.
3. A Self-Confession: A Stubborn Person.
4. The Petronas: An Effective Interventionist.
5. The Petronas Twin Towers: A Distinctive Islamic Design.
6. His Disgust Towards Personality Cult.
7. The IIUM: The Unsung Founder Paid a Tribute to A Palestinian Scholar.
8. He Who Loves Lakes and Boating.
9. The Pulau Layang-Layang: A Naval Base, A Scuba Diving Paradise.
10. The KL Tower: The Jelutong Tree.
11. The 14th General Election: A Sacrifice by Tun Dr Mahathir.
12. The Teaching of Science and Mathematics in English: His Willingness to Lead.
13. 'Russia's Love for Dr M a Peculiar Phenomenon'.
14. The Jews: Brainy but Heartless.

THE INTRODUCTION

TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

Tun Dr Mahathir was the fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia for twenty-two years, from July 1981 to October 2003. In May 2018, at the age of ninety-three, he was again appointed as the seventh Prime Minister of Malaysia for almost two years; and he was the world's oldest elected head of government by then. With a political career which has spanned more than 75 years, he firmly epitomises a true Malaysian statesman.

Tun Dr Mahathir has transformed the economic landscape of Malaysia from an agricultural to an industrial nation. Under his leadership, the services sector has developed tremendously, contributing more than half the value of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Malaysia.

Not only the economic landscape, Tun Dr Mahathir has transformed the physical topography of the country. Firstly, he built the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) complex to be the new headquarters of his political party, UMNO, in the early years of his premiership. Next, he built the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest twin towers and Malaysia's most iconic landmark. Then he built Malaysia's new administrative capital, Putrajaya, with a huge signature man-made lake and the Tropic's largest freshwater wetland park.

By 10 July 2023, Tun Dr Mahathir was ninety-eight years old. He has a long healthy life, observing self-disciplines in many aspects, including eating in moderation. Jokingly once he said that he believes in 'eat to live' and not 'live to eat'. Besides that, as he ages, he has regular short naps in the afternoon. All these self-disciplines contribute so much to his physical health.

At that late age, Tun Dr Mahathir still has a very active mind and a very superb mental health. He writes almost every day: producing books, writing his own speeches, blogging under the pseudonym of 'Chedet', writing columns in newspapers and a large collection of articles. He reads not only a lot, but also on numerous subject matters. He can be considered as a self-tutored economist and an excellent interpreter of numerous Islamic teachings and issues. Besides writing and reading, he continuously gives prepared and off-the-cuff speeches. All these activities contribute tremendously towards his 'young man' mental faculty.

Tun Dr Mahathir has written a few books. His first book, *Malay Dilemma*, which was published in 1970, proposes that affirmative action policies should be the solution in avoiding violence in a multi-racial society and in achieving a harmonious and integrated Malaysia. After his retirement in late 2003, Tun Dr Mahathir has produced a few books, and the most notable title is *'A Doctor In The House'*, a more than 800-page memoirs of him. In late 2021, after his second retirement, he produced another book titled *'Capturing Hope: The Struggles Continues for a New Malaysia'*.

Tun Dr Mahathir is a statesman, a scholar and a genius.

THE CORRUPTION: 'KAIN KAPAN' HAS NO POCKETS

In Power For 31 Years

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the Minister of Education in 1974, promoted as Deputy Prime Minister in 1976, and since 1981, he was appointed as the fourth Prime Minister for 22 years. He was again appointed the seventh Prime Minister in May 2018 for almost two years. All in all, he was in office of power for about 31 years.

Normally, the longer a person holds a position of authority, the higher the chances for him or her to be exposed to acts of dishonesty in acquiring illicit benefits. But it is not for Tun Dr Mahathir.

To Understand His Unwavering Attitude Against Corruption

Tun Dr Mahathir is very, very confident that his closet is skeleton-free. He is dead sure that he is free of corruption.

To understand him better, there is a narration of four subsequent paragraphs as in page 293 of his book 'A Doctor In The House' which can shed some light about his firm, unwavering attitude against corruption. There was an incident that happened when he was a very young medical officer, not even married, and he was waiting for his love to complete her medical studies in Singapore.

The Incident: The first paragraph gives the background of the incident that builds up his disgust towards corruption.

“Much later, when I was doing a post-mortem in Alor Setar, I had a policeman standing next to me when I was cutting up the body of a murder victim. He was there to make sure I was dissecting the right corpse. The standard procedure is to cut open the body and pull out all the organs to examine them for disease. To do this, you must have strength and be able to withstand the smell. I hadn't even probed the wound fully when the poor policeman toppled over in a faint”.

‘Kain Kapan’ Has No Pockets: The second paragraph explains further on the temptation to abuse power for material gains.

“These amusing anecdotes aside, this closeness to death kept me free of the temptation to abuse power for material gains. This was another important political lesson: in the end, you have to leave everything behind. As someone said, there are no pockets in ‘kain kapan’ (funeral shrouds). Everyone, rich and poor alike, end up just like the deceased patients I encountered almost every day when I was working in the hospitals and as a private doctor”.

Reconciled With Mortality: The third paragraph touches on how he becomes so reconciled to his mortality.

“Some doctors end up becoming insensitive to the death of their patients and other people, even colleagues and friends. But it was impossible for me to remain untouched as death is so final. There is no return. The only way to face your mortality is to believe that what you do in life will matter even after you are gone. You must have faith to face death. With this in mind, I was determined to live a full life. I wanted to get married and have children. Later, as I studied religion more and more, it became clear to me that life was a gift that had to be valued. It became much easier to become reconciled to my mortality and my exaggerated fear of dying slowly disappeared”.

Clear Conscience: The last of the four subsequent paragraphs expresses that Tun Dr Mahathir does not care of others smearing his good name because his conscience is clear.

“What became more important than worldly wealth was to maintain my good name: not because I wanted to be admired but because I did not want to give my children and grandchildren any reason to be ashamed of me after I am gone. I think I have done the best I can. My conscience is clear, although there will always be people who will smear my name. I have long accepted this but in my mind, I will not leave a legacy of shame”.

The Firm Psychological Makeup Against Corruption

Taking the whole narration of the four subsequent paragraphs as above, it is not a surprise for Tun Dr Mahathir to have such a firm psychological makeup of himself that he is corruption-free. Also, such firm psychological makeup makes him a person who is so determined, so resolute and so unwavering in fighting corruption.

The Corruption Committed by Datuk Seri Najib

In November 2015, Tun Dr Mahathir launched a campaign against the corruption scandal committed by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib. The campaign launching ground was at Taman Melawati, near Kuala Lumpur. He told the crowd gathered there that the main reason for the campaign was to depose Datuk Seri Najib for his involvement in a very huge corruption scandal.

Very Sad but He Had to Do It

Tun Dr Mahathir told the crowd that the late Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, the second Prime Minister, was his political mentor and protector. He acknowledged that Tun Abdul Razak was the person who had suggested his name to run as a Member of Dewan Rakyat for the Kota Star Selatan seat in 1964. He also acknowledged that Tun Abdul Razak had nominated him to UMNO's all-important

political committee. Given that, Tun Dr Mahathir told the crowd it was a very difficult decision for him to launch a campaign against the son of his mentor and protector.

Tun Dr Mahathir then gave the crowd a few details of the many pieces of information he learned about the corruption case. He said Datuk Seri Najib had channelled about RM 2.67 billion from the 1MDB, a government-run development company, into his personal bank accounts. He told them that 1MDB had nearly RM 42 billion in debt by 2015. The financial fraud was 'one of the world's largest financial scandals.'

Tun Dr Mahathir repeated the same lines of the fraud at the next venue, a hotel in Ampang, and at the subsequent venues in Kelang Valley. He then travelled to other states to appeal for support in his lone mission.

Whoever Has Enough Evidence Can Bring Him to Court

In the meantime, Datuk Seri Najib was ready with a huge machinery to launch a counterattack against Tun Dr Mahathir. In the crowd of supporters gathered by Datuk Seri Najib, Tun Dr Mahathir found the late Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim, a lawyer and the Adviser of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), ready to shoot him down.

In his columns in a local English newspaper, Tunku Abdul Aziz sought permission of the government for him to prosecute Tun Dr Mahathir over various claims of corruption. The following day, Tun Dr Mahathir was asked by the Press for his response. His reply was short but blunt: 'Whoever has enough evidence on his involvement in any corruption case can bring him to court of law'. Given such a short but very definitive reply, Tunku Abdul Aziz was virtually caught off guard and dump-founded.

The Great Momentum

Soon after launching his campaign to depose Datuk Seri Najib as the Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir received support from Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who was dropped as the Deputy Prime

Minister, and Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal, who was dropped as the Minister of Rural and Regional Development. Both of them were dropped in February 2016.

Later, in September 2016, Tun Dr Mahathir spearheaded the formation of a political party known as Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu), while Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal formed the Parti Warisan Sabah (Warisan).

The Pakatan Harapan

Eventually, Tun Dr Mahathir secured the support of three opposition parties: Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR), the Democratic Action Party (DAP) and Parti Amanah Negara (Amanah). Then they formed a coalition of four political parties called Pakatan Harapan (PH).

Winning The 14th General Election

On 9 May 2018, PH and Warisan won the 14th General Election, toppling the Barisan Nasional.

Hence, over the next four years, Datuk Seri Najib was prosecuted and found guilty of corruption; and he was sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment and a fine of RM 210 million. He became the first former prime minister in the history of Malaysia to be jailed.

The Only Malaysian Who Could Successfully Lead to Topple a Strong Prime Minister

There was no doubt that some Malaysian opposition leaders were shouting of corruption practised by Dato' Seri Najib and his government. However, political commentators doubted whether anyone of them had the capacity to lead a successful campaign on corruption against a strong Prime Minister like Dato' Seri Najib.

Given such a political situation, there appeared an UMNO member, Tun Dr Mahathir, its former president, to launch a vigorous campaign in November 2015. He was the only Malaysian, either from UMNO or the opposition, who had the political capacity to

launch such a campaign. Besides that, due to his close relationship with some captains in the Malaysian banking system, he had the advantage of knowing the details of the corruption case. From day one of his campaign at Taman Melawati near Kuala Lumpur, he had mentioned some numbers which were proven to be correct over time.

In the next two-and-a-half years, with the strong support of the opposition parties and some former UMNO leaders, he achieved his mission: to topple the corrupt Dato' Seri Najib and his government at the 14th General Election.

However, given his deep respect for the late Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, his achievement was a bitter-sweet success to this day.

The Related Videos

1. 'Mahathir: The machinery of government has been corrupted', by The Financial Times, dated 28 May 2018.
2. 'Corruption is endemic in Malaysia's political system', by Free Malaysia Today, dated 9 February 2021.
3. 'Malaysia's Mahathir widens corruption probe in 1MDB', by Al Jazeera English, dated 15 May 2018.

A SELF CONFESSION: A STUBBORN PERSON

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad realises that he is argumentative, stubborn and opinionated. Describing the mannerisms of his eldest daughter, Marina, he writes: “Marina turned out to be a lot like me: argumentative, stubborn, opinionated”

The Proton

Reading his books, letters and articles, there are few instances to show how stubborn Tun Dr Mahathir is. Of the few, the best example reflecting his stubbornness was his involvement in setting up of Proton and the production of national cars. He had endured numerous criticisms even at its initial stage and during the implementation period. He had faced many challenges for more than fifteen years as he decided to be personally involved in many matters related to Proton. He had also decided to interface directly with many parties to ensure the success of the national car project. Far from being a negative trait, this stubbornness is his source of strength.

The Seeds of His Dream

In his book, ‘A Doctor In The House’, Tun Dr Mahathir says the seeds of his dream on Malaysian cars were planted in 1964, when he was in New York city for the first time as a member of a delegation from the Malaysian Youth Council to attend the World Assembly of Youth. He could remember looking down from the airplane as it came in to land and seeing endless streams of cars moving to and from on the roads around the airport. He said he had never seen anything like it, not even in Japan and Europe. To

Tun Dr Mahathir, it seemed as if a third of the population of the United States must be sitting in cars at any given time.

To him also, all those cars represented wealth and development, and he thought it would be marvellous if Malaysians back home could have the same thing.

All Round Criticism

When he first mooted the idea of producing a national car, Tun Dr Mahathir did not receive much support initially. He acknowledged that there were the usual cynical, defeatist remarks that Malaysia would never manage it. The opposition, the press and even some economists were pessimistic about the prospects. He realised that opposition politicians said that it was not for a developing country to build cars, and that Malaysia was leapfrogging ahead without having the money and also engineering and management expertise to do it.

Tun Dr Mahathir writes: "I anticipated that negative reaction because I knew the Malaysian mind and how Malaysians like to stay in their comfort zone. They would not consider producing a Malaysian car as it had never been done before".

Disparaging Remarks

Tun Dr Mahathir was somehow disheartened initially as there were even a few 'disparaging remarks' from members of his Cabinet. He at least expected the support of his Deputy Prime Minister at the time, but he eventually realised that his Deputy was not happy with the idea either.

Car With Roof of Melaka Bullock Cart

Even a cartoonist joined the fray. He drew a cartoon which showed a Malaysian car with the roof of a Melaka bullock cart. To Tun Dr Mahathir, the cartoon captured perfectly the mentality of most Malaysians. It depicted the mental block among Malaysians and the inferiority complex that needed to be overcome.

Tun Dr Mahathir also explains that “Unless you take calculated risks, you will never know whether you are capable of achieving anything. I had been brought up to be careful with money and I was certainly not going to throw government money away on anything frivolous”.

The Criticism Hardened His Stand

Eventually, those negative comments and the opposition he faced simply hardened his stand and made him more determined than ever to build the national car project. He believed in his ability to ensure the success of the national car project.

The Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Berhad (Proton)

The first Malaysian carmaker, the Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Berhad or Proton was established in May 1983. It was a joint venture between the Hicom Holdings, a government company, the Mitsubishi Motors (MMC) and Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan. Travelling to Tokyo a few times, Tun Dr Mahathir personally anchored all major discussions with the Japanese joint-venture partners. He noted that Mitsubishi was not the best automotive company in Japan but the company was the only one willing to entertain his requests and had become involved in his idea of a Malaysian national car. He had never considered the Europeans or the Americans as they were already losing their market share in Malaysia and elsewhere.

The Challenges in Early Years

Proton's first model, the Proton Saga, was launched on 9 July 1985. Tun Dr Mahathir admitted that the standards of the first Sagas were not really up to the mark. At one stage, the EON Berhad, the principal distributor, refused to take further delivery as it had too many cars in stock. As expected, Proton was losing money. Admittedly, he had to make hard decisions to ensure the survival of Proton. Tun Dr Mahathir decided to move out the Malaysian CEO and bring in a Japanese to manage the factory. The Malaysians would learn from the Japanese as understudies.

THE COMMENTARIES *of* Tun Dr Mahathir's Postage Stamps

An old album which is linked to this book has a collection of about 580 beautiful and colourful postage stamps of Malaysia and 29 other countries. The stamps were collected at the Prime Minister's Office when Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the Prime Minister, from July 1981 to October 2003.

The stamps in the album evoke pleasant memories on Tun Dr Mahathir. He is old in age, 98-year-old in July 2023, but he is forever young with his very sound cognitive health, and is still very sharp and eloquent. The pleasant memories include and encompass his commitment towards upholding numerous disciplines in his political life. Besides being disciplined, he is also very observant of numerous principles. Guided by those disciplines and principles, he had managed to provide a tough but effective leadership in transforming Malaysia from an agricultural to an industrial nation. In appreciation of those pleasant memories, there are several commentaries on Tun Dr Mahathir in this book.

The stamps also evoke memories about remarks and comments made by Tun Dr Mahathir on the leadership of several countries. The United States of America, the Federation of Russia and the People's Republic of China are chosen as his remarks and comments are very pertinent and relevant to the current geopolitical environment of the world. For this, there are a number of commentaries on the three countries in this book.

Of the three countries, Tun Dr Mahathir's remarks and comments on the United States are more stinging and penetrating.

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