

An Engineer IN THE HOUSE



DATUK KAMARUDIN MD ALI

The Man Behind the 1000 Days Policing of
Reformasi in Kuala Lumpur 1998-2001



TDM
Gift

Yang Amat Berbahagia
Tun Dr Mheethan Mohamad.

Sempura menyambut hari kelahiran
ke-1001 Keluarga GAB Tun diberi ihsan
yang sempurna dan serentias
dibekahi Allah SWT
dga segala kesefaliteraan

Amin Amin Amin

Ikhlas dan

Deputi Komander Mdt Akh

Dabr Hord Oliman

Nurul Drah

Nazrul Azli.



10.7.25





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PUSTAKA PERDANA



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DAZUK KAMARUDIN MD ALI

The Star Board of the 100 Days Policing of
2005-2007

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PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA

An Engineer

IN THE HOUSE



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Proem

TAN SRI NORIAN MAI

I am immensely honoured to express my heartfelt appreciation to Datuk Kamarudin MD Ali for graciously allowing me to contribute to his memoir, “An Engineer in the House.”

Datuk Kamarudin’s transformative journey from an engineer to a distinguished police officer represents a significant chapter in the history of the Royal Malaysia Police. His progression signifies not only a personal triumph but also mirrors a profound commitment to national service, characterized by unwavering dedication and sacrifice.

From humble beginnings, Datuk Kamarudin’s ascent to the upper echelons of law enforcement was not without its challenges. His pursuit of engineering, a formidable discipline, demanded relentless effort and self-improvement.

Confronted with financial constraints and the necessity to distance himself from his family, his path exemplifies the resilience and determination required to surmount obstacles in pursuit of one’s goals. Indeed, the opportunity to pursue engineering is a privilege not afforded to everyone, particularly amidst financial constraints and societal barriers.

Datuk Kamarudin’s pivotal role during the tumultuous Reformasi riots of 1998 stands as a testament to his valour and leadership. Amidst turmoil, his steadfast commitment to upholding law and order showcased his courage and resilience in the face of adversity.

Recognizing his exceptional capabilities and the imperative to enhance the caliber of our police force, I took the decision to send him to The Royal College of Defence Studies subsequent to his commendable tenure as the CPO of Kuala Lumpur. This endeavour sought to furnish him with advanced knowledge and skills, thereby augmenting the standards and efficacy of policing in Malaysia.

The distinguished Royal College of Defence Studies provided a coveted opportunity for select officers, including esteemed individuals like Tan Sri Rahim Noor, Tan Sri Zaman Khan and Tan Sri Bakri Omar, to partake in a comprehensive year-long program in London, focusing on international relations and strategic leadership.

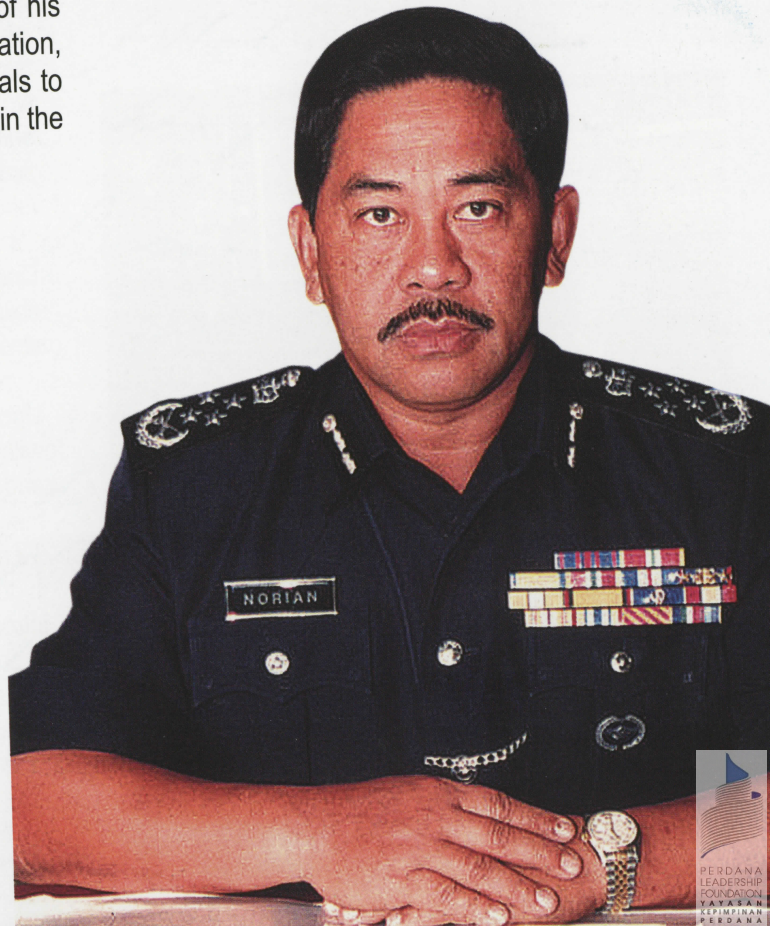
It is my earnest aspiration that Datuk Kamarudin’s perseverance and significant contributions will serve as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring police personnel.

Through his memoir, I trust that his narrative will resonate with readers from all walks of life, urging them to contemplate a career in law enforcement.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Datuk Kamarudin MD Ali on the publication of his memoir. May his story endure as a source of motivation, guiding future generations of dedicated individuals to uphold the principles of integrity and honour within the Royal Malaysia Police.

Thank you.

TAN SRI NORIAN MAI
Former Inspector-General Of Police
Malaysia [1999-2003]



Proem

TAN SRI ACRYL SANI BIN HJ SANI ABDULLAH

It is with great honour and gratitude that I extend my heartfelt thanks to Datuk Kamarudin for inviting me to contribute the preface to his remarkable memoir, "An Engineer in the House." Having had the privilege of working closely with him within the force, I am confident that his insights and perspectives will enrich this endeavour immensely.



During my tenure as an engineer in the Royal Malaysian Force, I've had the distinct honour of working alongside Datuk Kamarudin, an esteemed leader whose extensive experience spans decades of dedicated service within our organization. Together, we've spearheaded a multitude of projects and initiatives, confronting challenges with resilience and ingenuity, all aimed at fortifying the department's infrastructure and financial sustainability. Notably, Datuk Kamarudin stands out as the youngest officer to have ascended to such senior and influential positions within the force, exemplifying exceptional leadership qualities and a commitment to excellence.

One particularly notable achievement during our collaboration was the transformation of the department's structure and financial standing.

Upon stepping into leadership positions, we were met with daunting challenges including notable deficits and operational inefficiencies. Nonetheless, through meticulous strategic planning and collective dedication, we managed to steer our trajectory towards improvement in just six months. Central to our approach was the introduction of high-profile policing, coupled with a strong emphasis on leading by example. This shift in focus instilled a culture of accountability and unwavering dedication among our ground commanders.

It's important to clarify that our efforts were primarily focused on managing the finances of the Police FA, rather than the entire department's financial standing. Despite this narrower scope, our initiatives bore fruit. For instance, organizing a comprehensive three-day seminar for Officer Commanding Stations, with a keen focus on effective supervision, proved to be particularly impactful. The tangible results achieved and the positive feedback received from stakeholders underscored the efficacy of our strategies.

After a distinguished 36-year career in the force, Datuk Kamarudin felt compelled to share his wealth of experiences, insights and vision with the next generation of law enforcement professionals. His desire to inspire and leave behind a legacy of excellence and innovation serves as a testament to his unwavering commitment to the advancement of the force.

It is my sincere belief that the pages of this memoir will not only chronicle Datuk Kamarudin's journey but also serve as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

With deepest respect,

TAN SRI ACRYL SANI BIN HJ SANI ABDULLAH

Former Inspector-General Of Police
Malaysia [2021-2023]



Preface

YDH DATO' SRI AYUB BIN YAAKOB

Senior Vice Chairman
Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation



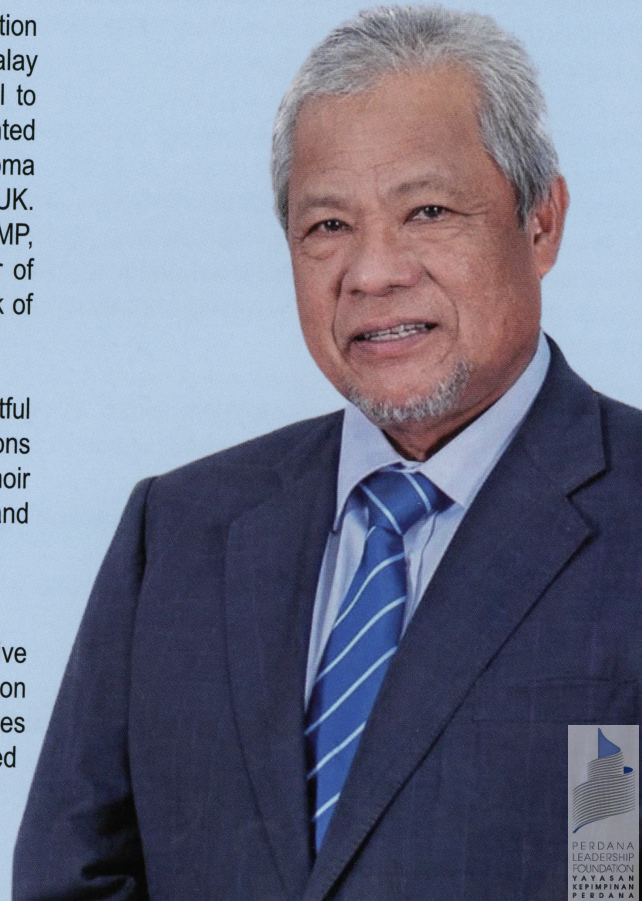
Datuk Kamarudin MD Ali had a diverse and accomplished career within the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) and his contributions spanned various roles and responsibilities.

Datuk Kamarudin shared details of his childhood, education and early experiences, including his rejection from the Malay College Kuala Kangsar and his journey from primary school to joining the police force as a Probationary Inspector. He highlighted key milestones in his educational journey, including diploma and degree programs in mechanical engineering in the UK. He discussed his involvement in various roles within the RMP, including his promotion to the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) & last rank of Director of Management with rank of Commissioner of Police.

Overall, Datuk Kamarudin MD Ali had a diverse and impactful career in the Royal Malaysian Police, with significant contributions in engineering, logistics and community involvement. His memoir would likely provide further insights into his experiences and contributions throughout his career.

Flashback to Childhood and Early Life

Datuk Kamarudin's memoir delves into his early life and formative years. He shared his experience of being rejected in his application to the Malay College Kuala Kangsar, highlighting early instances of determination and perseverance. His daily routine involved cycling a total of 30 kilometres to school.





During this period, he lived with an uncle who was a religious school teacher in Dunlop Estate Sagil. He also began learning to cook since Form one, which would later serve him well during his career. At the age of Form 4, he rented a house with three others, making it more convenient to attend school.

During this time, he received a scholarship from the MSA, providing him with RM40 per month from Form 4 to Form 5. After completing Form 6 and High School in Muar, he made the life-changing decision to join the police force as a Probationary Inspector (PI). He fondly remembered his training period from June 1970 to December 1970, where he was first appointed in the Special Branch as an officer with the designation of E5 Inspector under the guidance of ASP Syed Mumtaz, who he described as an excellent boss.

In 1971, Datuk Kamarudin's career took a pivotal turn as he was sent to pursue a diploma in mechanical engineering at the Institut Teknologi Kebangsaan (ITK), a journey that would lay the foundation for his engineering expertise.

Introduction of Helicopters in the Police Force

Notably, in 1990, as the Force Transport Officer (FTO), he was appointed as the Chairman of the technical committee responsible for introducing helicopters into the police force. This role showcased his visionary leadership and ability to adapt the force to new technologies and capabilities.

Early Career and Education

Datuk Kamarudin joined the police force with a Senior Cambridge MCE Grade 1 qualification. He began his career as a Probationary Inspector and was initially posted as a Special Branch Officer in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. Later, he received a transfer to attend a diploma in mechanical engineering course at Technical College KL for three years. After completing this diploma, he was awarded a scholarship to pursue a BSc in mechanical engineering at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow.

After returning from Glasgow, he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) and served as the technical officer of the Transport Branch. He was later awarded a scholarship to complete his MSc at the University of Birmingham. Following his return, he was posted to the Police Contingent of Kuala Lumpur as the Contingent Transport Officer with the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). In 1983, he was promoted to Police Superintendent and appointed as the Deputy Federal Transport Officer at Bukit Aman.

His career path exhibited consistent and rapid progression, reflecting his competence and dedication. In 1992, he was appointed as the OCPD (Officer in Charge of Police District) of Petaling Jaya, a strategic move aimed at positioning him for promotion to the rank of Senior Assistant Commissioner (SAC). He played a crucial role in helping Tun Hanif establish the MCPF, which was officially launched in February 1993.

Following this, he assumed the role of Deputy Director of Management (Logistic) in 1994. Notably, he was the youngest among the directors in the five departments, all of whom held the rank of Commissioner of Police.

His career continued to ascend, reaching the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) in 1997. In 1998, he was requested to be sent as the Chief Police Officer, a position considered in three states: Sarawak, Pahang and Kuala Lumpur. Ultimately, he was posted to Kuala Lumpur in January 1998, undertaking significant responsibilities as the Chief Police Officer.

Career and Notable Achievements

Over the years, Datuk Kamarudin continued to excel in his career. He was awarded a scholarship to pursue a Master of Science (MSc) degree at the University of Birmingham, further enhancing his engineering qualifications.

Upon his return, he was posted to the Police Contingent of Kuala Lumpur as the Contingent Transport Officer, now holding the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP).

In 1983, his career took another significant leap as he was promoted to the rank of Police Superintendent and posted back to Bukit Aman as the Deputy Federal Transport Officer.

It was during this time that he received a directive from Tun Hanif to join the Logistic Transport division, where he played a vital role in procuring and upgrading Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), transitioning them from Ferret Scout cars to advanced Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) and Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs).

His technical expertise played a crucial role in enhancing the police force's capabilities in terms of armored vehicles. His contributions expanded beyond armored vehicles. Datuk Kamarudin was involved in the acquisition of Water Cannon vehicles, particularly after the Memali incident.

Tun Haniff entrusted him with the task of receiving two vehicles from Taiwan and procuring an additional two from Rosenbauer Austria. These vehicles would prove essential for maintaining public order during critical situations.

Furthermore, he was instrumental in procuring the first two helicopters for the Royal Malaysian Police. This marked a significant milestone in the force's capabilities for aerial support and reconnaissance.

His innovative spirit extended to modernising the computer system and communication infrastructure of the Royal Malaysian Police, a testament to his dedication to staying at the forefront of technological advancements.



A noteworthy aspect of his career is that he was the only engineer subjected to a particular directive, which eventually led to his peers assuming high-ranking positions, including one who became the Inspector General of Police (IGP).

Involvement in Key Incidents and Events

Datuk Kamarudin's career was marked by several high-profile incidents and events. Notably, during the years 1998 to 2000, he was involved in critical situations such as the occupation of foreign embassies by refugees, the opening of Bukit Aman mosque in August 1998, the sacking and subsequent arrest of Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim in September 1998 and the tragic murder of Audrey. He played a pivotal role in establishing the Crime Prevention Club during this period.

His involvement extended to international events, including the APEC Summit in Kuala Lumpur. During this summit, dignitaries like Albright and Algore were present in Kuala Lumpur and Datuk Kamarudin faced challenges such as the burning of police traffic motorcycles by demonstrators marching from Kg Baru mosque to the Renaissance Hotel, where Albright was staying.

He was also actively engaged in events like the Commonwealth Games and the arrest of Dato Sri Zahid Hamidi under the Internal Security Act (ISA). Additionally, his involvement in the launch of the MCPF Safe City initiative by Dato Sri Najib in Bangsar showcased his commitment to community safety.

NGO and Community Involvement

Beyond his police career, Datuk Kamarudin was deeply engaged with several non-governmental organisations:

A. Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF)

Directed by Tun Haniff, he played a significant role in establishing the MCPF. His responsibilities included preparing the constitution in 1992 and the organisation was officially launched in 1993 by the Prime Minister. Datuk Kamarudin served as the first Honorary Secretary of MCPF but resigned when he was promoted to the Director of Logistics.

After retiring, he remained actively involved in MCPF and served as Vice Chairman for about three terms from 2010 to 2016.

B. British Graduate Association Malaysia

He assumed the role of Deputy President since 2014.

C. University of Strathclyde Alumni Malaysia

As President - 2023.



A Remarkable and Diverse Career

In conclusion, Datuk Kamarudin MD Ali's memoir paints the picture of a remarkable and diverse career within the Royal Malaysian Police. His journey began with humble beginnings and educational challenges but was marked by unwavering determination and commitment to public service.

As an engineer within the police force, he played pivotal roles in enhancing the technological and logistical capabilities of the police, from upgrading armored vehicles to introducing helicopters and modernising computer systems and communication infrastructure.

His involvement in significant events and incidents showcased his leadership during critical times, whether it was managing public order during protests or addressing high-profile arrests and incidents.

His career progression, from a Probationary Inspector to Deputy Commissioner of Police, reflects his competence and dedication to continuous learning and development. Moreover, his active engagement with non-governmental organisations underscores his commitment to community service beyond his role in law enforcement.

Overall, Datuk Kamarudin MD Ali's memoir promises to be a rich and inspiring account of a life dedicated to public service, engineering innovation and community engagement within the Royal Malaysian Police.



YDH DATO' SRI AYUB BIN YAAKOB

Senior Vice Chairman

Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation



An Engineer in the House

The title “**An Engineer in the House**” was selected to encapsulate the extraordinary journey of Datuk Kamarudin Md Ali, who seamlessly merged the worlds of engineering and law enforcement. This dual identity is not just rare but also transformative, as it highlights how his engineering background profoundly influenced his approach to policing, setting him apart from his contemporaries in the Royal Malaysia Police.

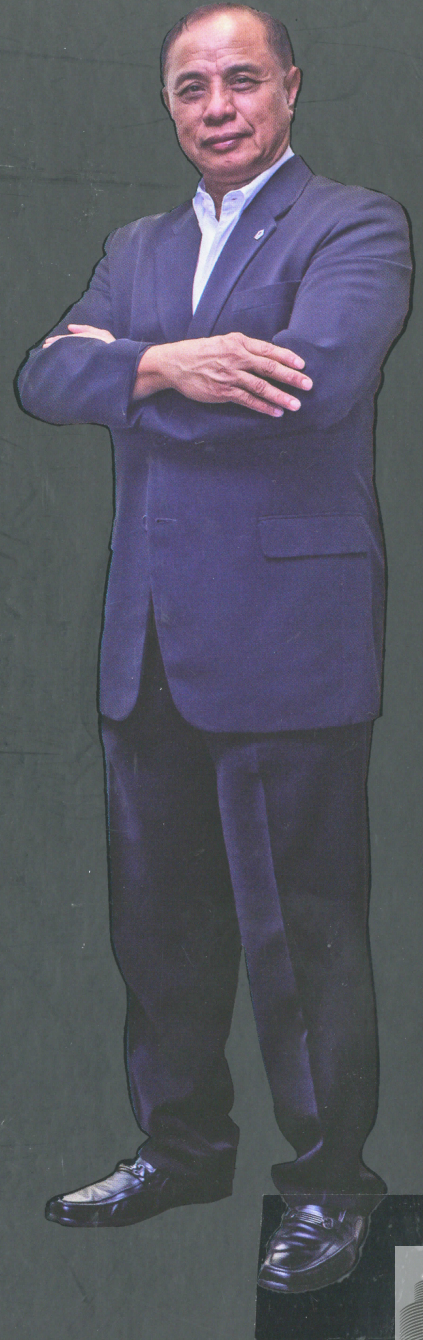
Datuk Kamarudin hails from the esteemed Al'Taib family, a lineage known for its prominence and contributions to society. His grandfather, Hj Taib bin Ibrahim, married Sharifah Asiah Bte Syed Abdullah and their union gave rise to a family that has grown to encompass more than 1,000 members. This extended family includes a wide array of professionals, such as university professors, economists, doctors, engineers and other experts across diverse fields. Datuk Kamarudin's accomplishment of becoming the first engineer within the Al'Taib family is a significant achievement, underscoring the value of education and professional growth that the family upholds. His academic credentials, earned from prestigious institutions like the National Institute of Technology Malaysia, the University of Strathclyde and the University of Birmingham, mark him as a pioneer in his family.

After joining the Royal Malaysia Police, Datuk Kamarudin's engineering skills came to the forefront. He applied his analytical thinking and problem-solving abilities to his police work, allowing him to devise innovative strategies and methodologies. These new approaches have had a lasting impact on crime prevention and community engagement, demonstrating how engineering principles can be effectively integrated into law enforcement. His work not only enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of police operations but also brought about a shift in how challenges were approached within the force.

The title “**An Engineer in the House**” thus symbolizes Datuk Kamarudin's pioneering role and the remarkable fusion of engineering and policing. It reflects how his unique background has enabled him to make significant contributions to the field, ultimately benefiting the community and setting a new standard for others to follow.

Leonard Sabu

Author & Long-time Friend of Datuk Kamarudin Md Ali



Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare that the handbook was published in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.