

New Story

By Aida A Razak

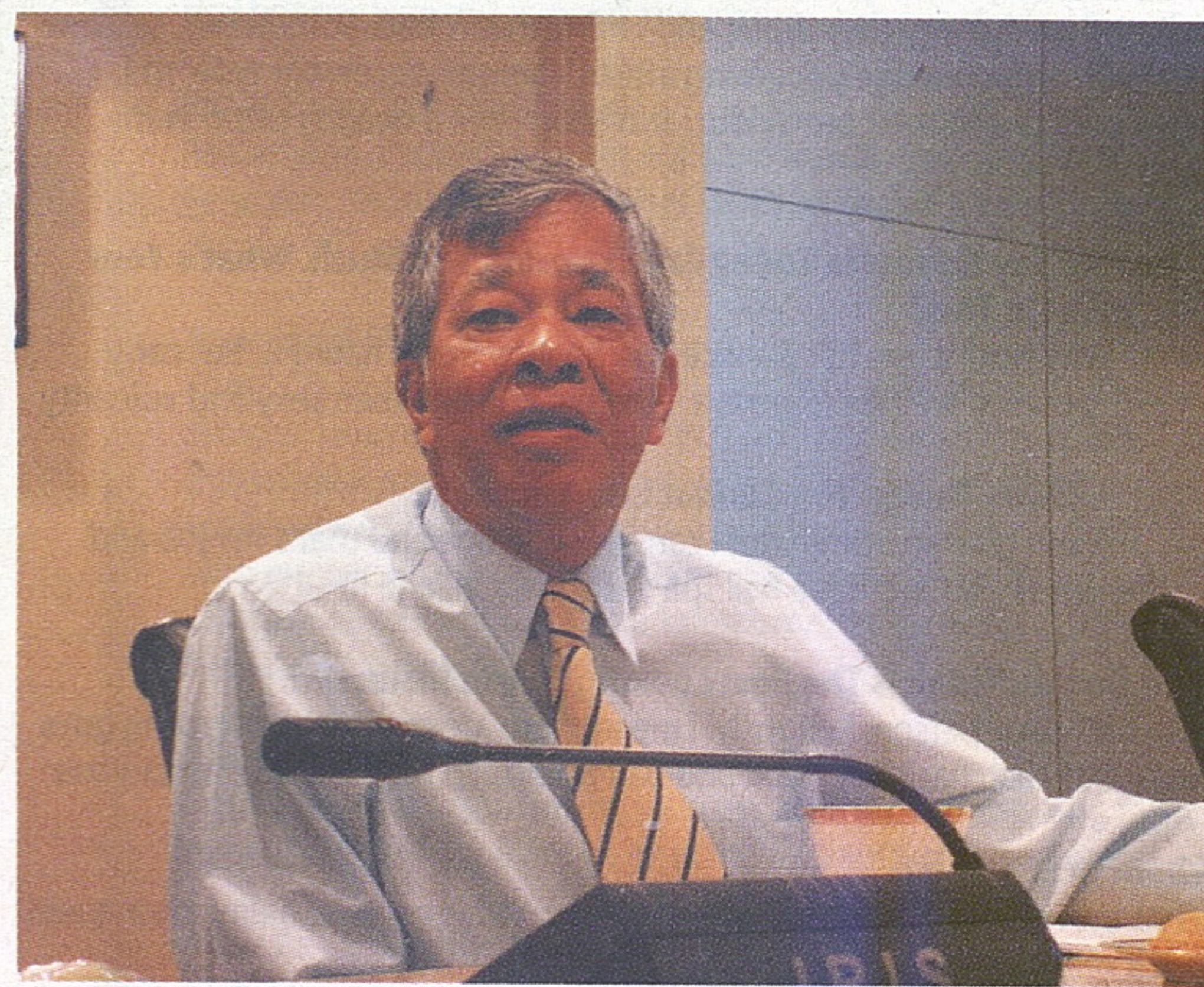
UNCOVERING YOUNG WRITING TALENT - AN ESSAY WRITING CONTEST ON YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND MALAYSIA'S FUTURE

How would you like Malaysia to be in the year 2057? What are your thoughts on youth leadership in this country?

These are a couple of the thought-provoking questions put forward in the Perdana Leadership Foundation's Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders Essay Contest 2008.

make the final decision on the Grand Prize winner.

To enter, students need to download the official contest entry form from the Perdana Leadership Foundation website (www.perdana.org.my) and abide by the terms and conditions of the contest. Students can write their essays in Bahasa



"Enthusiasm to learn must be nurtured."

- Tan Sri Nik Mohamed Nik Yaacob (above) Executive Director, Perdana Leadership Foundation

Open to all Malaysian students aged between 13 and 21 in secondary schools, colleges and universities, this contest aims to discover young writing talent, encourage sound research skills and elicit opinions from young Malaysians on the future of this country and the role of youth leaders.

This is the second year that Perdana Leadership Foundation (PLF) is organising this essay writing contest, and the prizes up for grabs are just as exciting as last year's contest which saw Grand Prize winner (Tertiary level) Mohd Haizal Zainuddin drive away, literally, with a PROTON Savvy. This year, the Grand Prize is a Chevrolet Aveo along with RM1,000 cash, RM500 in book vouchers and a two-week work stint with a PLF-selected corporation. Other prizes include Macbooks, iPod Nanos, and mobile phones. The Grand Prize winner will also win a computer workstation for his or her school or institution, while the institution with the most number of qualified entries stands to win a computer workstation, too.

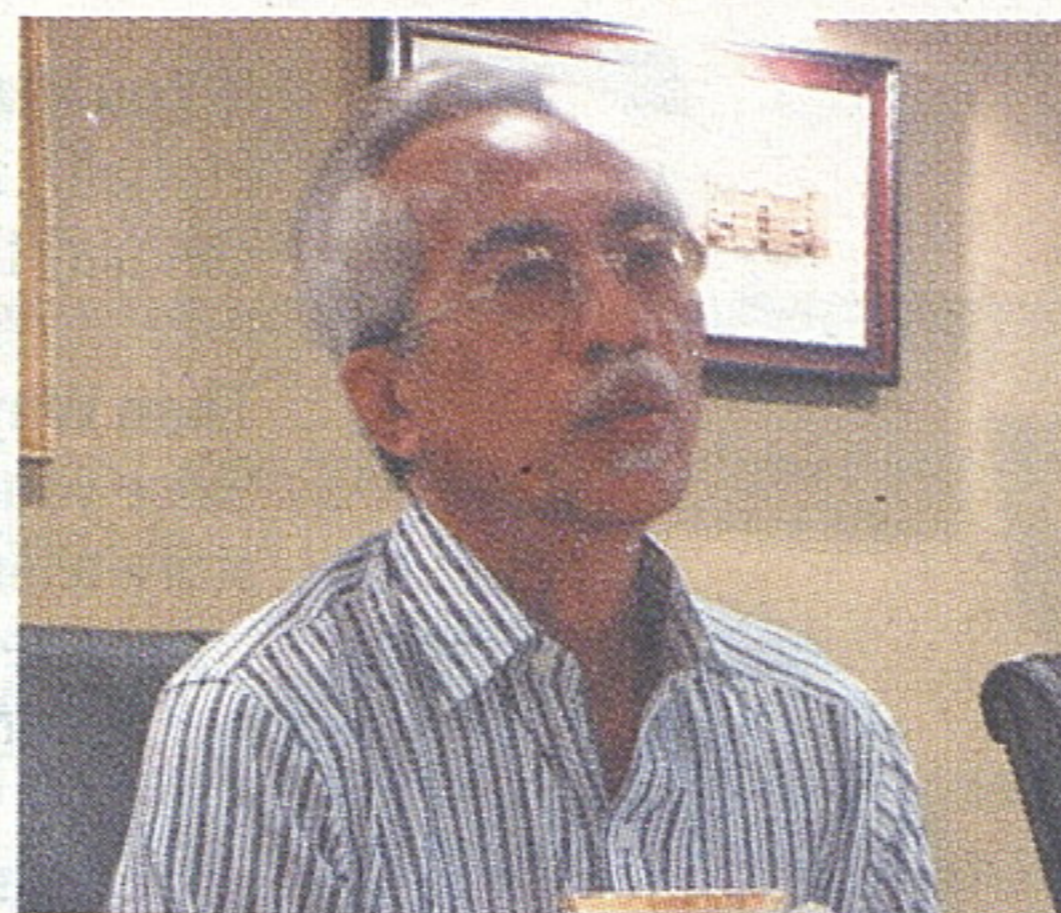
One key difference in this year's contest is that contestants in all categories will be eligible to win the Grand Prize; the top-rated essays from each category will be evaluated by the judges who will

Malaysia or English, though English is the preferred language, on any of the topics below:

1. What is your vision for Malaysia in 2057 when the country celebrates its centennial Independence celebrations?
2. Describe what leadership means to you and the role that youth leaders play in shaping Malaysia's future.
3. Describe the relationship among culture, education and leadership, and the factors that you believe are important in moulding the future leaders of Malaysia.

All essays are to be between 1,500 - 2,000 words in length. Works are to be referenced and a list of suggested resources is provided at the Foundation's website (www.perdana.org.my). The closing date for the competition is June 30th, 2008.

This contest is organised with the objectives of promoting analytical thinking, good writing and sound research among Malaysian students, whilst highlighting the resources available at the Perdana Library. In line with the Foundation's objectives of highlighting the contributions of Malaysia's past leaders to the country's development as an independent



"Students participating in this essay competition should use simple language, write short sentences, be precise and bear in mind that you can be stylish (in writing) without being verbose and long-winded."

- Datuk A Kadir Jasin (above) Group Editor in Chief, Berita Publishing and former Group Chief Editor of New Straits Times Press

nation, this contest seeks to stimulate deeper thought on issues that affect the country, as well as uncover Malaysian youths' aspirations and ideals for the nation.

"With Malaysia facing challenges such as globalization and rapid technological advances, we feel that it is timely to turn to our young to find out their hopes for the country, and the roles that they feel they can play in driving this nation forward. As per last year's contest, we are looking for intelligent, original responses, as well as sensitivity to the issues facing the nation and innovative ideas to resolving them," said Tan Sri Nik Mohamed Nik Yaacob, the Foundation's Executive Director.

Established in the year 2003, PLF is a non-profit organization dedicated

to Malaysia's leadership history, highlighting in particular the policies, strategies and contributions of Malaysia's past Prime Ministers. The Foundation preserves, documents and disseminates materials - including speeches, news clippings and magazine articles - related to the country's rich intellectual heritage. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the nation's fourth Prime Minister, is the Foundation's Honorary President.

Further details on the contest are available at Perdana Leadership Foundation's website (<http://www.perdana.org.my>). The Star and Utusan Malaysia are the official media partners for this essay contest. Prize sponsors are DRB-Hicom, AmBank Group, CIMB Bank, Maybank, Bank Rakyat and MPH Bookstores.



Perdana Leadership Foundation's
"Nurturing The Minds Of Future Leaders" Essay Contest 2008

Write your way to Great Prizes!

If you are a Malaysian student aged between 13 and 21, we want to know your thoughts on youth leadership and the future of our nation. Write and research any of the three topics proposed and stand to drive away a Chevrolet Aveo! Other great prizes await you, including Macbooks, iPods, cash and book vouchers.

So, put on your thinking cap and start writing! Closing date for all entries is 30 JUNE 2008. More information, suggested resources and application forms are available at <http://www.perdana.org.my> or via e-mail: essay2008@perdana.org.my (attn: Essay Contest Secretariat).

Select any one of the topics below:

1. What is your vision for Malaysia in 2057 when the country celebrates its centennial Independence celebrations?
2. Describe what leadership means to you and the role that youth leaders play in shaping Malaysia's future.
3. Describe the relationship among culture, education and leadership, and the factors that you believe are important in moulding the future leaders of Malaysia.

Your essay can be in either English or Malay; however, English is preferred. All essays must include references. Essay length (excluding footnotes and bibliography) to be 1,500 to 2,000 words. All entries must be accompanied by the official entry form, available from <http://www.perdana.org.my> or via email request (essay2008@perdana.org.my). Closing date is 30 June 2008. Contest is open to Malaysian citizens only. Grand Prize to Third Prize winners of Perdana Leadership Foundation's 2006-2007 Essay Contest are not eligible to enter.

Prizes to be won:

Grand Prize x 1
Chevrolet Aveo Sedan, RM1,000 cash, RM500 MPH book vouchers, 2-week work placement

The top essay from each category will be considered for the Grand Prize.

First Prize (x 1 for each lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary level)
Apple Macbook, RM800 cash, RM400 MPH book vouchers, 2-week work placement

Second Prize (x 1 for each lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary level)
Ipod Nano, RM500 Cash, RM300 MPH book vouchers

Third Prize (x 1 for each lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary level)
Mobile phone, RM300 cash, RM200 MPH book vouchers

Fourth Prize (x 5 for each lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary level)
RM200 cash, RM100 MPH book vouchers

Consolation Prize (x 25 for each lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary level)
RM50 MPH book vouchers

For school/institution of Grand Prize Winner
PC workstation

For school/institution with the most number of entries
PC workstation



Contest Supporters:



Media Partners:

