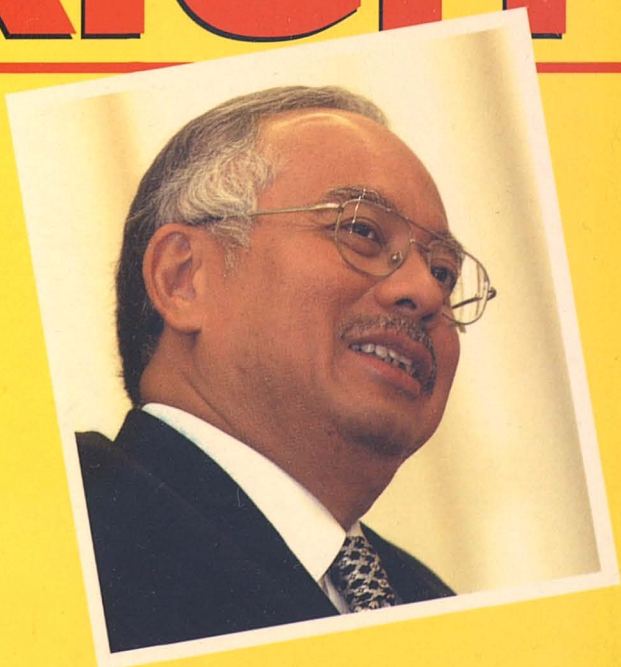


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***Najib Razak and
Malaysian Politics***

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	
1. Following In The Father's Political Footstep	2
2. Stabilising Pahang Politics	20
3. Youth Wing Politics – The Struggle	32
4. Almost Detained Under The ISA	49
5. National Politics – Trials, Tribulations, Challenges And Opportunities	57
6. Heading Three Ministries	77
7. Becoming The Number Two Man	88
8. Appointment Of DPM – Reaction And Acceptance	108
9. DPM – Duties And Responsibilities	115
10. Deputy President – Duties And Role	143
11. Thirty Years And Counting	160
Bibliography	166
Index	169

INTRODUCTION

Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Abdul Razak marked his thirtieth active year in politics on February 21, 2006. Exactly thirty years earlier he won the Pekan parliamentary seat uncontested, succeeding his late father, the then Prime Minister and UMNO President who had passed away on January 14, 1976. After winning the Pekan constituency and being sworn in as Member of Parliament in March of that year, he began his political career at the tender age of 23.

Although the Tun Abdul Razak pedigree opened doors to politics, he made the grade on his own merit, quickly establishing himself and rising to the level to where he is now--Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy UMNO President.

This book features the early years and the landmarks he set during that thirty-year political career. This book also aims to show how he became a political figure who had his work cut out for him through the party apprenticeship. Although he is the son of a Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Mohd Najib rose through the ranks, beginning at the divisional level, then state, and finally national level. In the process he didn't have to trample on anyone. His political career didn't spark any controversy. He didn't gain his posts by grabbing anyone's position through close contests, but stepped in to fill vacancies.

When arriving at a cross-road, Najib proved to be an astute politician. The result was a smooth transition in party and government. This proved to be his forte, especially when Datuk Seri Anwar toppled Tun Ghafar Baba for the UMNO deputy presidency in 1993. The crisis that followed the dismissal of Anwar in October 2 1998 as deputy prime minister and party deputy president during the confrontation with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1998 showed Najib to be wise by remaining loyal and dutiful to Dr. Mahathir and the government.

Najib held fast and was patient when Dr. Mahathir named Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as deputy prime minister in early 1999. As the leading UMNO Vice-president at that time, Najib-- or at least his supporters did -- felt that he should have been Dr. Mahathir's first choice. But this was not to be. They accepted the reality that the time for their Man to be the number two had yet to arrive. But Najib's fortitude and patience paid off when Abdullah chose him as Deputy Prime Minister on January 6th 2004. Whether he does become Prime Minister or not, only time will tell. Nevertheless, based on the current political scenario, Najib as Deputy Prime Minister and UMNO Deputy President, is the front-runner for the premiership and party presidency when Datuk Seri Abdullah steps down.