



**Winning Strategies
of
ANWAR
IBRAHIM**

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Mutharasan

LLB.HONS (LONDON); CLP; MBA (UNIVERSITY MALAYA)



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PUSTAKA PERDANA



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Preface

The outcome of the 2008 Malaysian General Elections has changed the Malaysian political landscape as never before in its 50 years of history as an independent nation. The future of Malaysian politics too seems to be heading for exciting times, with new twists and unexpected events taking place almost every other day. It appears that this trend is set to continue at least for the next 4 years or until the next general election takes place to decide once and for all who has the majority in parliament to form the next federal government.

Why this Book ...

Since the night of March 8, 2008, every day has been marked by much discussions and analysis among my friends on the outcome of the elections. I realized that there were many hidden issues and strategies in this general election and that the outcome of the elections was not a miracle or due to sheer luck. It was made possible because of meticulous planning and hard work, diligently carried out by the opposition parties during the last one or two years.

In particular the opposition's success seems to be due to the political acumen and genius of one man. His untiring efforts and whirlwind tours of the country, attracting and convincing thousands of Malaysians through his oratorical skills made a marked differ-

ence. He was able to attract the young and the old; Malays, Chinese and Indians; as well as people from all walks of life and from every nook and corner of the country. Needless to say that man is Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

When I compared the events that have been happening for the last one or two years with the outcome of the results of the 12th general elections, I found a pattern of intelligent strategies and intricate plans. As I compiled and organized them, I realized that the resulting material was ripe for a book. With some encouragement from my friends, I decided to embark on writing this book.

Who am I to write this Book ...

At a very early age I became interested in politics and affairs of political parties in Malaysia. Whenever, party elections of BN component parties were held, I used to follow the developments closely. The political developments in other nations also interested me. Of particular interest was that of India and the state of Tamil Nadu due to my roots. That interest also broadened my outlook about politics as Indian politics are never short of excitement and controversies. As I became a voracious reader of local political affairs, over the years, I became familiar with the prevailing political issues, party elections and general elections in Malaysia.

Having joined as a member of MIC at a young age, I had the opportunity of getting involved in many MIC party elections and developed close rapport with some of the MIC leaders. My involvement in MIC also gave me an opportunity to familiarize myself with the issues affecting the Malaysian Indians and their politics. Perhaps that could be the reason why the Indian issues are discussed in little more detail in this book.

I had also worked in many previous general elections, for the Barisan Nasional. That experience afforded me the inner workings of the Malaysian general elections at the ground level, especially from the perspective of Barisan Nasional. Probably that is the reason why I have devoted a chapter to discuss the weaknesses of the

Barisan Nasional, a subject close to my heart, as I have personally witnessed how the Barisan parties would approach and campaign for the votes from the different communities. Therefore, I could easily identify the flaws and weaknesses in the campaigns of the Barisan during the 2008 general elections.

In the past, if any of the constituencies where a by-election was being held was nearby, out of interest I would spend as much time as possible there, listening to the *ceramahs* and trying to figure out the local and national issues over which the opposing parties were clashing.

For the 2008 General elections, I also travelled around, wherever I could, listening to the *ceramahs* of both the Barisan and the opposition parties while following the political events closely through newspapers and internet. Of course there were also exchanges of information with friends all over the country. All these experiences of mine were very helpful and instrumental in the writing of this book as I myself could relate personally to many of the issues raised and discussed.

This is an objective analysis...

All the views, analysis, predictions and hypothetical examples that have been expressed in this book are purely on an objective basis. Criticisms if any, about a political party or leader are only intended to be a political analysis with no other personal agenda or ulterior motives.

I must confess that I do not know Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim personally and no interviews or conversations were conducted with him or his family members about this book. All the information about him presented in this book, however personal in nature was acquired only through research of newspaper articles, documents and through my own knowledge. I have been following Anwar's political involvement with interest since he joined UMNO. I still vividly remember the newspaper stories about the famous press conference by the then Prime Minister Dr Mahathir and Anwar Ibrahim