



— MAY 9 —
**PEOPLE
POWER
SAVES
MALAYSIA**

MAHATHIR LEADS THE WAY

9595
RI

M. KRISHNAMOORTHY



New book highlights people power

As the new Malaysian government heads towards its first 100 days in power, a timely book looks at how a nation came together to effect historic change.

EVENTS surrounding Malaysia's momentous 14th general election (GE14) in May that toppled the Barisan Nasional regime after six decades in power are chronicled in a new book by veteran journalist M. Krishnamoorthy.

In the work titled *People Power Saves Malaysia – Mahathir Leads The Way*, he focuses, among others, on the key role played by the 93-year-old Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in galvanising Malaysians of all races as he steered the Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition to Putrajaya.

In the book's introduction, Krishnamoorthy says that without the tremendous amount of time

and effort that Dr Mahathir put into pulling together a oncedivided opposition and creating a unified political coalition, PH could not have won the right to form the government.

"I am convinced that Dr Mahathir and his Cabinet will bring about real changes in a progressive Malaysia. Corruption may be a thing of the past with him helming the nation," says the author, who is also an associate professor in journalism at a leading university. He was previously a senior journalist with the Star Media Group for many years.

Chairman of national news agency Bernama, Datuk Seri



Krishnamoorthy with his timely new book, *People Power Saves Malaysia: Mahathir Leads The Way*. — Handout

Azman Ujang, commented in the book that *People Power Saves Malaysia* "captures the journey of a nation that has witnessed the most dramatic trajectories.... This is a heartwarming narrative where Malaysians came together as one, and with a singular voice, they ignited the historic shift."

Krishnamoorthy also said that the book is a tribute to all Malaysians who voted for change and would now chart the journey to a new and better tomorrow.

"May the hearts of Malaysians continue to beat as one human race," the media relations and crisis management coach says in the book. Bernama

MAY 9
PEOPLE POWER
SAVES MALAYSIA
MAHATHIR LEADS THE WAY

GE14 VOTES OUT CORRUPTION

PUSTAKA PERDANA



1012109

KRISHNAMOORTHY MUTHALY

Personal insights, commentaries and news



First published in Malaysia in 2018

Publisher:

Krishnamoorthy Muthaly

Email: *krishnamuthaly@gmail.com*

Copyright © 2018 Krishnamoorthy Muthaly

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Muthaly. Krishnamoorthy, 1949-

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia / Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

MAY 9 PEOPLE'S POWER SAVES MALAYSIA

Mahathir Leads the Way

by Krishnamoorthy Muthaly

ISBN 978-967-12950

Printed and bound in Malaysia

Techtouch Media Solutions

23, Jalan PJS 7/13, Bandar Sunway

47500 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

Front cover design by Carl Dunford

Cover Photo: Courtesy of The Malaysian Reserve

Articles and pictures: Courtesy of The Star, Malaysiakini. The Sun Daily and others to which attribution is included in the content.

Thank You For Another Day

I must wake up to the dawn of day

Say Thank You Lord for giving me another Great day

To help myself, family, friends and strangers.

When I wake up at the dawn of day

*I must not forget to meditate, jog my mind with good thoughts,
And exercise my body and mind to perform good deeds for the day.*

As I do my yoga stretching and bathing my cells

*With the flush of blood nourishing every cell in my body,
I must for a moment ponder for peace for the rest of the world.*

*Like the cells in my body, may the people around the world
Start their day with noble thoughts and proactive initiatives*

Wanting to help everyone they come into contact with.

So God, hold me by my hand and lead me through this land

Loving, caring and serving everyone I come in contact with

To see, do and get what will bring them happiness.

And, if I do falter, please halt my wrong thoughts, actions and EGO.

To stop me from hurting another's feelings.

From dawn to dusk, every step or movement or action

I must self-improve my conduct and character, and

Help and guide others to do the same without hurting their feelings.

This is my humble mission in life

To live, learn, love and leave a legacy, if any,

As I interact with my family, friends and colleagues daily.

KRISHNAMOORTHY MUTHALY



WHY THIS BOOK?

WHO

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad played a key role campaigning at 93 and brought Malaysians of all races together through the Pakatan Harapan Manifesto. GE14 is a historic event of how Mahathir saved Malaysia from corruption. This book is a reminder to act against those who stole the people's money.

WHAT

The Malaysian Tsunami of voters wanted the change. Everything that happens to us is the result of what we ourselves have thought, said, and done. Malaysians are determined to be resilient, resourceful, and open minded to face the challenges and realities of the 21st century. Malaysia was engulfed in darkness and we finally saw the light on May 9.

WHEN

May 9 was a significant date. Malaysia made history when the opposition coalition Pakatan Harapan ousted the 61 year long rule of Barisan Nasional through its campaign against kleptocracy.

WHERE

Nationwide, the Malaysian psyche changed. In Malaysia, we took the responsibility to vote for a brighter future for our children and a better tomorrow.

WHY

My passion for writing. Why gossip? It is better to put my thoughts in writing. Journalists are known for writing the first draft of history. Not just me, but others too have a chance to express their thoughts in this book. News, views, comments and statements by leaders are often forgotten. I am just documenting as events unfold for the record.

HOW

People Power defeated an unfair, unjust and authoritarian government. Everything that happened was the reflection of our thoughts and can be changed by our thought process. I tried my best to chronicle in this book as a story from darkness to light in Dr Mahathir's last battle to save Malaysia.

CONTENTS

Thank You for Another Day	
Reasons for the book	
Contents	
About the author	1
Love and gratitude	1a
My Thanks to All Malaysians	1a
Ambiga tells it like it is	2
Traumatized Najib	3
Charting a new tomorrow	4
Happy Birthday Dad. Happy 93.	6
Prologue: Mahathir says: UMNO and BN will disappear	7
Staying strong to 93	10
1 Will tomorrow ever come?	11
What is wrong with Malaysia?	16
2 Stealing the people's will	17
Similarities in 1MDB and The Wolf of Wall Street	20
3 Lies, denials and more lies	21
4 Mahathir leads the nation again	24
Najib's Dept. letter to CIA sought US backing in event of GE14 win	26
5 Forgive and forget for unity	27
6 People power saves Malaysia	29
7 Getting it right with the media	31
8 Is Anwar in a hurry to be PM?	33
9 Nurul: Anwar supports Mahathir	35
10 Cheat outcome of GE14 results	37
11 Healing Malaysia	39
12 Tun averts a GE14 crisis	41
Press conference dialogue	42
BN corrupt, asked 30pct shares from China investors for certain people	43
13 Stay united as a ruling coalition	44
Pakatan's decision on Tun Mahathir ridiculous, stupid, regressive: Nazri	47
14 Anger against Najib turns the tide	48
15 UMNO leaders blame each other	50
16 Sinful RM 83 million to boost Najib's image	52
Dr Mahathir's political attacks to disrupt leadership, says Tengku	55
Mahathir gets kudos on social media for RM 4 sandals	55
Najib: I am partly responsible for UMNO's failure in GE14	56
Najib: I am innocent	56
All hell broke loose in Najib's office	57
17 Brand Hijack caused BN's downfall	58
RM1.1 billion in cash and valuables seized from Najib	61
Najib sounds like he is innocent	61
Corrupt and taking government's money	61
18 Justo: Wife and son may end up in an orphanage?	62
Death threats to Justo's family	64
Shukri aims to put things right after in wilderness	64
19 Youths excited over Pakatan's victory	65
Malaysian youth speaks	67
20 Murdered DPP Kevin was my informant	68
ROS approves UMNO's application to postpone it's elections	69

21	Undercover Member of Parliament	70
	Lurid tales of bribery and murder	71
22	Can 1.6 million civil servants take on the challenge?	72
	Najib the 'worst PM in Malaysian history' - Kit Siang	75
23	PH will win GE 14	76
	A personal conviction: Why PH will win GE14	77
	I am driven by people's aspirations	79
	I will step down when Anwar becomes PM - says Wan Azizah	79
24	Astrologer's FB forecast	80
25	Fake News! Watch it!	81
26	More work, less talk	82
	Barisan's attack on Dr Mahathir	84
	Mahathir should just take care of his grandchildren: Zahid	84
27	Kula's town hall meeting rocks HRDF	85
	UMNO after wealth accumulation	87
28	Malaysiakini GE 14 sites blocked	88
	Gobind wants to reduce mobile rates	89
	Millions tuned into Kini TV for GE14	90
29	Sacrifice for the nation	91
	Fixing a broken Government in 100 days	92
30	Threats if you don't donate to BN's War Chest	94
	MACC arrests ex special aide to Rosmah	95
	Civil service rot hurts	96
	Gladly taking on the four charges, says Najib	96
	May 10: The day Dr M shivered and trembled	97
31	Gifts, corruption at open house?	98
	Govt plans to repeal Sosma: Tun M	99
	Spirit of helping Malaysians	100
	Bollywood producer Raman to shoot Dr Mahathir movie	101
	MACC seizes documents: ECRL, 2 pipeline projects	101
	Government money to promote racism and bigotry	102
	Kleptocracy at its worst	103
32	"I belong to you, I am Krishna"	104
	King: Stop playing the race card	106
33	Cabinet be approachable	107
34	Look what the tide brought in	110
35	New hope for new Malaysia	114
	If you've got info on Jho Low, come clean - Umno veep tells Najib	115
	Need for political financing reform	116
36	No one will be left behind	117
37	A day of denials on Page 1	119
	An open letter to our elected new government public servants	120
	Well, Let's see Mr Najib	122
	Questions to Najib by a 23-year-old youth	124
	Authors Speak - Why PH won?	128
	The Malaysian Indian dilemma	133
	A book chronicling how people power saved Malaysia	134
	Tun Daim Zainuddin: We need to cleanse the system	136
	Behind the scenes: News and Events - GE14	137
	Epilogue: Breaking dawn	144
	Thank you	145
	Appendix: Facing the Media in a Crisis	146

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Krishnamoorthy Muthaly is a journalist who lives by his convictions. A veteran in media relations, Krishnamoorthy is passionate about providing readers with fast-paced stories, and adopts a decidedly different view to storytelling. His penchant for nothing but the truth has honed his investigative journalistic skills throughout his career, as he seeks to untangle the truth from a complex web of spins and lies.

Self-motivated, resourceful and versatile, Krishnamoorthy is one who goes beyond the superficial façade of life. One contributing factor that lends depth to his writing is his humble background. He started work as a junior officer in Tenaga Nasional from 1969 to 1979, and saved his earnings to pursue a degree in journalism at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (1980-1983). Whilst at the university, he played a prominent role in organising Knoxville festivals. Unprecedented in the history of the university, Krishnamoorthy organised a meeting for student leaders with former President Jimmy Carter in 1982.

As a senior reporter with The Straits Times and The Star for more than two decades, he has highlighted society's concerns. He has gone undercover as a beggar, security guard, blind man, disabled, a salesman and a Member of Parliament. His exclusive scoops have not only brought timeless insights to readers but have also provoked our conscience, while unveiling the good and the bad about human nature.

With his crisp writing style and inquisitive mind, he bagged several awards, including the Journalist of the Year 1987 from the Malaysian Press Institute and Consumer Journalist of the Year (1997). Apart from writing, Krishnamoorthy is a media coach specialising in media writing and crisis management. He has also served as an academic with various universities, Monash, Murdoch, HELP, UTAR and Xiamen University Malaysia imparting his knowledge of journalism to students. He is currently an Associate Professor at an internationally acclaimed university.

At almost 70 when most people would gladly retire, the author is not one to pause for the twilight. He continues to freelance with CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, TIME magazine, The New York Times, The Guardian, Sydney Morning Herald, as well as German, American and Australian TV stations. Krishnamoorthy's stories and coaching embody his approach to life. Embracing the belief that people are uniquely different with miracles in progress, Krishnamoorthy strives to add value to the lives of young people, and is committed to training and empowering the next generation for organisations. Essentially, he lives by the maxim of loving all and hurting none.

Jenny Maganran Goh

Academic

LOVE & GRATITUDE

(Dedication)

I dedicate this book to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and every Malaysian (People Power) who voted for a new Government. I salute all Malaysians whose courage, determination and resilience have shown the world that change can be achieved. It was accomplished through a peaceful campaign, and showed that when there is unity, there will be victory. It is my prayer that the new Pakatan Harapan government will work towards a new Malaysia where racial issues pale in comparison to the more pressing problems of rebuilding the economy and restoring democracy in the political landscape.

When I shared my intention to write this book, many friends came forth with a myriad of titles. Given the humiliating wreckage that the country is facing and the massive restoration which awaits the new government, I could not think of any title more befitting than *May 9 People Power Saves Malaysia - Mahathir Leads the Way*. I see Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad not only as a doctor and politician, but as a father to the masses who have been left wandering in a dark and intimidating wilderness. In the final analysis, credit goes to the people of Malaysia who dared to stand up for what they believed in, and supported an admirable Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the Prime Minister for a better tomorrow.

MY THANKS TO ALL MALAYSIANS

(Acknowledgment - See page 145)

AMBIGA TELLS IT LIKE IT IS

(Foreword)

Love Malaysia, End Kleptocracy

Together, we can create a wave of change for a better future for Malaysians. We succeeded in ousting a kleptocratic government. In most of my public talks, I said Malaysia could have been branded as the “Switzerland of the East” if not for corruption that plagued the Barisan Nasional government. Enough is enough. Barisan has ruled the country for 61 years and how could RM2.6 billion be deposited into the former Prime Minister Najib Razak’s personal accounts?

Malaysia was blessed with a wealth of natural resources and talent, but corruption had become part and parcel of daily life. As the saying goes, “Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Fortunately, Malaysians have voted out a kleptocratic government. Before GE14, Malaysia faced a bleak prospect of the collapse of the rule of law, the creation of an absolute dictator and the establishing of kleptocracy as a norm. The leaders then infringed the law and continued to hold the reins of power, consolidating their positions.

Now that the dust has settled, we can look forward to the Pakatan Harapan government introducing more democratic reforms. It’s time for more national conversations to shape a just, fair and transparent government.

M.Krishnamoorthy’s book *May 9 People Power Saves Malaysia - Mahathir Leads the Way*, is enlightening, timely and calls for action on the corrupt culprits. This is a book recording, reporting and narrating how the battle of GE 14 was won. Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, a disciplined, hardworking and focused visionary, played a key role in defeating a kleptocratic government. Krishnamoorthy has also been generous to allow other commentators to pen their perspectives on GE 14. I have known Krishnamoorthy for about four decades when he used to visit my parents and relished the vegetarian lunches in my house.

In the late eighties, he mentored my brother Gopal who interned with the New Straits Times during his university holidays. In the past few years, as a freelancer for CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera and other international networks and newspapers, he and his media teams have interviewed me.

Moving forward, our new government leaders should have the humility to hear differing points of view rather than to believe only what they want to hear. The smart tactician would listen and learn and use the findings to be better prepared. It is better to be over prepared than under prepared.

Sun-Tzu's art of war states:
"Know the enemy,
Know yourself,
And victory
Is never in doubt,
Not in a hundred battles."

AMBIGA SRENEVASAN was a former Bar Council chairperson and the founder and leader of Bersih (People Power) movement for clean and fair elections.

'Traumatised' Najib expected to lose seats, but didn't see BN calamity coming

Reuters 20 June 2018

Going into the 14th general election, former prime minister Najib Razak said he expected BN to lose several seats, but did not expect such a disastrous outcome for the coalition that had governed the country since Independence.

"I saw part of it coming. I didn't expect it to be this catastrophic. I thought we could possibly lose some seats, but I didn't expect this sort of dramatic result, this calamitous result.

"It was a traumatic experience for us, as you can imagine. For a party that has been in power for more than 61 years.

"The history of Malaysia is basically the history of UMNO and BN," he said in an interview with Reuters.

CHARTING A NEW TOMORROW

(Introduction)

Among the many inspirational icons, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is one whose footprints leave indelible marks of his life. Tun's, is a philosophy of transparency, integrity and justice; there is no room for pretentious talk or egoistic warfare. For him, it is about living and doing what is right and just for the masses.

On May 9, People Power ushered a brand new world for Malaysia. The peaceful campaign saw the smooth transition of power that removed a 61-year-old regime under Barisan Nasional. People Power, started by Bersih, Hindraf and others was responsible for the transition while former Prime Minister Najib Razak appeared reluctant to concede defeat, when he delayed accepting the official results. The agonising wait for the election results and the swearing-in ceremony stretched the people's patience. Yet, they waited, for after all, they have waited for six decades.

MAY 9 People Power Saves Malaysia - Mahathir Leads the Way is a story from darkness to light. Truth prevailed and Malaysians took it upon themselves to cast their vote with conscience for fairness and justice. Malaysia was a nation engulfed in darkness and GE 14 was the light at the end of the tunnel on May 9. This book also airs the views of Malaysians.

Dr Mahathir is loving yet firm, in charting the future for Malaysians, and I write this book to record my gratitude to all Malaysians who rose to change the leadership.

MAY 9 People Power Saves Malaysia - Mahathir Leads the Way is also to record history as it took place. I am convinced Dr Mahathir and his Cabinet will bring about real changes to a progressive Malaysia. Corruption may be a thing of the past with him helming the nation.

Standing together as Malaysians, let's find our inner strength and, voice our constructive views to build a greater nation. Make your voice heard. Now is the time to amplify it. Say something, write something, break new ground, and let's take charge of our future because really, no one else will.

Pakatan Harapan's leadership can send ripples of hope, and let us lend our unwavering support to rebuild our nation. Malaysia has come a long way, and Tun's visionary leadership in his first 22-year term has steered the country on the path of technological development and economic prosperity.

You continue to smile regardless of your hectic life, facing the media's tough questioning. **Tun, you kept smiling while shaking hands with about 80,000 people at your Hari Raya open house. At the age of 93, while his counterparts would have preferred to slow down and enjoy the twilight, he challenged himself to lead the nation.** No Malaysian should rest on laurels, particularly when the very nation we built now stands at the risk of falling apart. As Malaysians, we must continue to have guts and grit, to bring this nation as one united in mind, soul and heart.

Braced for the battle, he led the country to a new dawn in the recent elections. **He is the true doctor for the whole nation, whose incisive diagnosis of the nation would save Malaysia with a more optimistic prognosis of recovering the national debt and billions of Ringgit lost through 1MDB, Malaysia's sovereign wealth fund.**

As a journalist, university lecturer and media coach, I was inspired and encouraged in my "Aha" or "wow" moments attending Dr Mahathir's events and press conferences. Without your heroic intervention, Dr Mahathir, and the tremendous amount of time and effort you put into pulling together a once divided opposition as a unified political coalition, Pakatan Harapan (Alliance of Hope) could not have won the right to form the government. **We must not lose sight of the fact that the formidable opposition was started by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with the 'reformasi' movement back in 1998.**

Humbly, I penned my thoughts, and put together a compilation of my writings and that of other Malaysians. This collection should give a unique avenue to fellow Malaysians to express their thoughts and gratitude, and thank champions and leaders like Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan who was one of those who initiated the people movement, Bersih. To me, it went way beyond just democracy because people on the ground had to fight tooth and nail to make sure ballots were properly counted throughout the nation and Rafizi Ramli should be credited for organising training courses for polling and counting agents.

Rafizi and other PH leaders strategised and achieved their objectives without any chaos. I personally attended two days of training and it was a truly amazing experience to learn how BN cheated in previous elections.

Barisan's corrupt past can't be changed. The new government will suffer from a credibility crisis if the courts don't find Najib guilty. Malaysians will have to rally together to recover all the ill-gotten gifts (RM1.1billion) and assets he stashed away in his properties. The government has got to liquidate the assets and return the money to the people through the development of the nation. As Barisan's door closed, Malaysians were fortunate another one opened for PH to serve the people better.

Campaigning around the nation, Dr Mahathir won the hearts of Malaysians. We are on the cusp of greatness as a nation, as the winds of change blow, once again, in our direction. When our hearts beat as one, there is no doubt that we will be able to bring Malaysia out of this debt crisis. As the dust settles from the BN fallout, the task at hand is a long and winding road, from gloom to glory.

This book is a tribute to all Malaysians who will chart the journey to a new and better tomorrow. May the hearts of Malaysians continue to beat as one human race.

M.Krishnamoorthy
Assoc Prof, Journalist, Media Relations
and Crisis Management Coach

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD. HAPPY 93
MARINA MAHATHIR'S GREETINGS FOR DR MAHATHIR
10 July 2018**

Happy 93rd birthday to my darling Dad. Nobody can fully know what it took to get back in the game, go out there and fight and then roll your sleeves up to work to save our beloved Malaysia. I'm proud of many things you've achieved but nothing has made me prouder than seeing you still willing to listen and learn from your new colleagues.

PROLOGUE

Mahathir: UMNO and BN will disappear

"It is not the team with the best players. It's the players with the best team that wins." Anonymous

Chedet, Dr Mahathir's blog 2 April 2015

1. The prediction of the present society is that UMNO and BN will be defeated by the 14th General Election as there are too many allegations made against Najib which he did not answer.
2. It started with the murder of Altantuya Shaariibuu, a Mongolian woman who was involved in a submarine purchase scandal.
3. Two policemen were accused of shooting the woman, being convicted, found guilty, then found innocent and released.
4. One of them is in custody. Another Sirul Azhar, is in Australia. He made a statement that he was ordered to kill.
5. People are wondering who gives directions. As Datuk Seri Najib's personal bodyguard, Sirul's allegations need to be investigated to determine who gave the direction. But apart from Najib who said Sirul was "quick", no investigation was made. This is human life.
6. The 1MDB case. The allegations of misappropriation in the billions of Ringgit by Jho Low have been made with clear evidence. This accusation was not answered other than to say it was a lie.
7. The so-called 1MDB assets amount to 52 billion while the debt is only 42 billion. Assets are not profitable before they are sold (diluted). Why was 2 billion pounds forced from Ananda Krishnan. If 1MDB does not lose why is it forced into debt. Why is the Government's 1 billion dollar money given to 1MDB after debt is paid?
8. The money saved on Cayman Island has been brought back. But half is deposited in Swiss banks (BSI) in Singapore. Where did the other 6 billion go? Why was this money not used to pay 2 billion?

9. It's supposed to be stored in Singapore as Bank Negara will ask if more than 50 million is deposited. If the money was our only money deposited in the Caymans, what would be the problem to explain to Bank Negara the source of the money. Again this money is owned by 1MDB which is fully controlled by the Prime Minister, who is also Finance Minister.
10. Other questions regarding 1MDB are not answered other than saying their assets are large. The question of the price of Government land purchased by 1MDB is not explained. Of course, if bought at a cheap price and increased double the value, the asset becomes bigger. But the government loses much when its land is sold at a price that does not reflect the market price.
11. US \$ 700 million is paid to Petro Saudi for what? Has it been determined that Petro Saudi has oil and gas concessions in Argentina and Turkmenistan before paying so much money?
12. Jho Low was reported in the New York Times, the London Times and Sarawak Report to be involved in the management of 1MDB worth billions of Ringgit. Who is Jho Low that he is so trusted by Najib? Malaysian appointed officials managing the 1MDB fund admitted they were directed by Jho Low who claimed that he had full trust and direction from Datuk Seri Najib.
13. The pictures of Jho Low and his behavior, his young age and his way of life do not reflect the personal convictions of the public. But he bought homes in New York and Hollywood for hundreds of millions of dollars. Then these houses were sold to Najib's stepchildren at the price of hundreds of millions of Ringgit for each one because supposedly Jho Low had found a more beautiful home in Hollywood for a higher price.
14. Did hundreds of millions came to Riza Aziz cannot be explained. Tun Razak's family including Najib denied this money was from the family. The hundreds of millions in Riza's "Wolf of Wall Street" film came from where?

15. And many more accusations and questions of 1MDB established by Najib which is fully controlled by him.. Reports in newspapers in New York and London are extremely embarrassing.

16. Meanwhile, despite the Government facing huge shortage of funds, Dato Sri Najib as Prime Minister bought another luxury aircraft. It is generally known that the existing ACJ319 aircraft is used not only for official duties but as a private vehicle for Datuk Seri and Datin Seri.

17. In the face of uncertain economic conditions, the people are forced to pay higher taxes, in the wake of the slide in the value of the Ringgit, with the rising cost of living and the people hit by floods and lost hundreds of millions of Ringgit, the Government wastes hundreds of millions of dollars in luxury aircraft although there are already government-owned aircraft.

18. The purchase method cannot hide that eventually the Government was forced to bear the burden of this purchase. If a non-Government company formally bought it, the lease payments (leases) are higher than the purchase directly because it has to profit the owner and the benefits incurred.

19. Apart from this, the policies of Najib's government were limited to free money, raising the anger of the Malays by setting aside the New Economic Policy support to the Chinese. But BN's showing in GE13 proves that the Chinese reject Najib's rule.

20. Indeed, the people, whether Malay, Chinese, Indian or Sabahans and Sarawakians, have no confidence in Dato Sri Najib. UMNO members and their leaders need to realize that UMNO and thus the BN will lose if Dato Sri Najib leads UMNO to GE 14. When UMNO loses, the Malays will curse the leadership that made this sacred party so weak that it is rejected by the Malays themselves. Once UMNO loses, it cannot be restored.

21. Many UMNO members and leaders are blindly loyal to the leaders. I am also loyal but my loyalty is to the party and the Malays it represents. It is not easy for me to write this blog. But for the sake of my nation I have to expose all this.

22. Malays will only be safed if the nation is more important than themselves.

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad
Chedet



SECRET TO LONGEVITY STAYING STRONG TO 93

"I would advise people not to rest when they grow old because if you rest, you will soon become very weak and incapable, and may become senile. Be active after you reach retirement. It is the same with your muscles. If you don't use your muscles and lie down all the time, the muscles cannot carry your weight. You cannot stand. You cannot walk. The brain is the same. If you don't use your brain, you don't think, you don't solve problems, you don't read, you don't write, the brain regresses and you become senile. So always be active."

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a dialogue with foreign correspondents, hosted by Japan's National Press Club, Tokyo

12 June 2018

1

WILL TOMORROW EVER COME?

"In this nation, leadership is dollars." - Norman Lear

It is often said that when it rains, it pours.

The makeshift tent was trying hard to keep its balance amidst a merciless downpour. Ahmad was frantically fighting with the torrent while his mother hurriedly packed the unsold packets of nasi lemak (a Malay rice dish cooked in coconut milk and pandan leaf) into the box. They would call it a day, as the rain had seemed determined to drench their business.

Back in their 15-year-old Nissan car, Ahmad counted their earnings for the day. His little brother asked if he would get to buy a new pair of school shoes for he did not want his feet to be soiled again. Ahmad nodded, while holding back a sigh. Somewhere in the glittering distance, a rich lady has just added one more **Birkin handbag** (page 161) to her insane collection that already filled up 70 boxes. Ahmad could not come to terms with a world **obsessed with riches**.

Just three years ago, Ahmad was like any teenager who did not have to worry about money. His father had a good job that gave them a comfortable life. They were not rich but they had enough.

But when his employer suffered a huge loss, Ahmad's father was retrenched. He had to work two jobs to put food on the table. In the day, he worked as a cashier in a restaurant that paid him barely enough to feed the family. He had to work as a security guard at night. This took a toll on his health, and he suffered a mild heart attack. He gave up his night job and continued working in the restaurant while his wife had to sell nasi lemak, with Ahmad helping her. Ahmad had to juggle between school and work. Life was hard.

Ahmad felt suffocated by a system that consistently favored the rich and mighty. His mother comforted him by saying that tomorrow would be a better day. All Ahmad wanted was a decent life for his family where they no longer had to go to sleep worrying about tomorrow's meals. His hope of a better tomorrow crashed when in the background, he heard someone singing "If tomorrow never comes".

Many Malaysians would be able to empathise with Ahmad because they, too, would have suffered similar hardships; only the scale differed.

Against a backdrop of unemployment and rising costs of living, Malaysians were in dire need of change. They tried and tried, but against a government that appeared tyrannical, they had to suffer in silence, and hope against hope.

Then came **May 9, 2018.**

It was a decisive moment. Malaysians, burdened with a baggage of pent-up frustrations, anger and discontent, voted in unison for change. Theirs was a baggage bursting at its seams, and the people, regardless of race or religion, came together as a singular voice to herald the triumphant return of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad -- to restore the rule of law in the country.

The **disenchantment with an arrogant Barisan Nasional (BN), the ruling party for six decades,** was echoed throughout cosmopolitan cities and small towns. Barisan Nasional had lost its relevance and neglected the interests

of ordinary folk, and the people wanted a change. What was needed was a shift in the political scene, change of national leadership, and a move to good governance.

Fanning the historic shift was an electorate that could no longer trust a party led by leaders who condoned kleptocracy. While top leaders and the Cabinet **lavished themselves** with immense wealth acquired through corrupt means, the masses went to sleep worried of putting food on the table for their families. Many had to toil about through the wee hours, juggling between multiple jobs, just to cope with the rising cost of living. **Foolishly, the Najib government had convinced the people that GST had brought about development** but people dismissed it as PR puffery. They wanted their bread and butter issues to be addressed. They wanted their cries to be heard. They wanted their pain to be felt. Yet, the BN remained deaf.

When the disparity between the lifestyle of high ranking party officials and ordinary people loomed larger, Malaysians thought enough was enough. Together, they cast their votes and brought back the prime minister who once spearheaded the economic and industrial transformation of the country. At the age of 93, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad led the country to victory in the election, signalling hope amidst the dim streets and cloudy skies.

Almost instantly, the day after elections – **May 10, 2018, Malaysians woke up to a new dawn with promises of a better life and hopefully, a corrupt free country.** Pakatan Harapan (PH) claimed victory in the iconic 14th General Election (GE14). It was a mandate from the people. To counter election fraud and gerrymandering, Malaysians showed up in full force with an 82 percent turnout. They rose to the challenge of ousting a corrupt government, and paved the way for PH to sweep a clear majority of seats in the Federal Parliament

Dr Mahathir adopted pragmatic economic policies for the modernisation of Malaysia, and today, he is celebrated as a Third World champion and Islamic spokesman who stood up to the West.

In contrast, his ex-protégé **Najib** turned Malaysia from a democratic society into an authoritarian country. For almost a decade, the government and its political machinery were purportedly controlled by Najib's wife, Rosmah Mansor. Both Najib and Rosmah were said to be linked to a multibillion-dollar 1MDB corruption scandal, yet no one could dethrone or derail them.

Perhaps, his mentor **Dr Mahathir** could dislodge the 64-year-old **Najib** who controlled the nation's legislature, executive and judiciary. United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the founding party of the **Barisan Nasional** coalition, survived by delivering huge cash handouts before and during GE14.

Mainstream media and even the foreign press were ticked off by his British media strategist. The communications department was guided by a foreigner who made many enemies in the media. Journalists and editors who wrote critical comments were reprimanded and some fired by media owners who danced to the tune of Najib and Rosmah. **Malaysiakini**, the nation's pioneering and independent online news portal, stood the tide but was hit by several legal suits from the government.

Najib's negative campaign, along with the alleged civil and criminal wrongdoings, made **Malaysiakini** the voice of the people and put the news portal in the spotlight right up to the PH claimed victory.

On the premature retirement of the former attorney general **Tan Sri Gani Patail**, **Dr Mahathir** said, "I wanted to know what happened when he (Gani) was removed and what was the result of his investigation. Gani claimed he was preparing to charge **Najib**, and that morning he was deprived of his position." Gani was heading the special task force investigating the RM2.6 billion 1MDB money in **Najib's** bank account and the SRC International case.

Gani was replaced allegedly on health grounds, with **Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali** midway through the probe, thus igniting speculation of a cover-up. During this period, a charge sheet against **Najib** also made the rounds but the

previous administration dismissed this as fake. Gani's successor Apandi Ali concealed evidence, according to news reports.

Under Najib's authoritarian administration, the **Election Commission (EC) acted unfairly to disenfranchise Malaysian voters** despite pressure from Bersih (Coalition for clean and fair elections) for a free and fair election. The EC continued to demonstrate its lack of professionalism under a manipulative prime minister. Najib and Rosmah abused power to dismiss officials and transfer them out of departments where they were a hindrance to their plans in the scandal-plagued state fund, 1MDB. Examples of alleged abuse of power by Najib included witness suppression and the blocking of a central bank criminal case against him.

The total blackout by the media on Dr Mahathir was the most unfair, highhanded and ridiculous action by Najib. Then there was the cutting out of Tun's face from banners during GE 14, and, not allowing the registration of his political party, Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia. **Malaysians could not take the BN badgering Dr Mahathir. They demonstrated their support for a change. It was a Mahathir tsunami.**

Najib was seen to be the **most ungrateful leader, forgetting that it was Dr Mahathir who planned for his succession** from Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as Prime Minister. His constant attack on Tun's age was dismissed as childish and unwarranted; Malaysians did not share his narrative as they could not tolerate his disrespect for the veteran statesman.

Upon the fall of UMNO, a shattered Najib was in denial up to about 11pm on the night of the election (May 9). He disappeared from the UMNO head office at Putra World Trade Centre and could not be contacted. UMNO leaders made a dash to his Putrajaya home, advising him to concede defeat.

About 20 years ago, the visionary Dr Mahathir predicted this scenario. **"In 2020, UMNO may not be in power anymore,** as they may have been rejected by the Malays themselves, who are bored of the money politics practised by UMNO.

I think 2020 is the maximum UMNO will lead. I think even before that, we will see UMNO's quality go downhill, along with its support. When UMNO is weak, having been rejected by the Malays, then BN will also fall.”

Again in his blog on April 2, 2015, Dr Mahathir reiterated the same forecast that UMNO and BN would be defeated in GE 14 as there were too many allegations made against Najib which he could not answer. Dr Mahathir, a pragmatic visionary, is not afraid to call a spade a spade. Malaysians are proud to have a leader who has the nation’s interest in his psyche. Under Dr Mahathir’s leadership and mission, Malaysians can now look forward to greater meritocracy for all Government and government -linked companies.

Kudos to Dr Mahathir who has taken the nation to a new future, peacefully and wisely.

What Is Wrong With Malaysia?

We do not deserve the government we get if the government we get is the consequence of fear and uncertainty, poverty, weakened democratic institutions, systematic racism, gerrymandering and a system stacked in favor of those in power. The Najib administration aggressively went after the media, blocking internet access to independent websites like The Malaysian Insider, The Sarawak Report and Medium. It suspended the publication of The Edge Weekly after the newspaper ran an investigative piece making the same claims the United States Justice Department would make about a year later. In recent times, the Malaysian government has pushed through restrictions on free speech, arrested individuals for sedition and introduced repressive laws – including one, ostensibly aimed at terrorists, that allows suspects to be detained indefinitely and another that punishes individuals for maliciously spreading “fake news.”

Umapagan Ampikaipakan,
Malaysian radio broadcaster and cultural commentator.
New York Times May 7, 2018

2

STEALING THE PEOPLE'S WILL

*"Hope is that small voice that says we will not be silenced."
- Gordon Brown*

In the circle of life, you get what you give out. Or more commonly put, we reap what we sow.

The alarm rang at 4 in the morning. Ahmad dragged himself out of bed and helped his mother to pack the freshly cooked nasi lemak. He felt sorry for his mother who had to sacrifice her sleep just to earn enough cash to give them a better future. How long, Ahmad thought, would this painful existence last? Didn't the Almighty up there see and hear the desperate cries of the people?

For over 61 years, BN stayed in power through cheating and stealing elections. They could cheat people and manipulate laws, but **they could not escape the universal karmic law. After all, how long can BN fool the people? How long can people remain silent?**

Just days before the elections, I told my friends that if BN wins, I would go around yelling, "God! Where are you? We Malaysians pray to you and you do not seem to be responding to our prayers." My friends laughed at my dramatic humour and perhaps, they thought it would never happen. Prayers sometimes bounce back, after all our pleas and cries. Then we find ourselves facing that same wall that doesn't hear, that doesn't talk.

I love to wake up to a new tomorrow where people work and play in harmony, putting aside racial and religious differences. I envision a place where everyone gets a share of this big tent that each is desperately pitching to survive. Parents who juggle two or three jobs just to provide a better future for their children would secretly yearn for the day when they can spend more time with their children and quiet moments for themselves.

A bleak future for my country – the place I called home. But my confidence found its resurrection when on one scorching February 2018 afternoon in Kuala Lumpur, my fellow devotees asked our spiritual guru from India, “What is the future of Malaysia in the face of a corrupt leadership?” His face reflected calm and ease. He was unperturbed with all our rantings about the scandals and cheating in Malaysia. His reply was short and sweet, yet reinvigorating, “There will be leadership changes in your country in 2018.” That was said, and it was communicated to me in April 2018. One more month, and the prophecy would be tested, I thought.

Seriously, BN has been stealing elections for years. Not the Robin Hood kind of stealing, but for greed and power. The government machinery was BN’s party machinery. So, through phantom voters, electoral roll tampering, mysterious power blackouts during recounts, money politics, and bribing and paying off polling and counting agents, BN kept its stronghold in the past 13 general elections.

The list is a long one, indeed. The battle for seats in GE 14 was the dirtiest in the history of the nation. What was most shameful was when **Election Commission officials resorted to cutting away Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad’s pictures from campaign posters.**

Malaysians witnessed the world’s biggest corruption scandal surrounding state fund 1MDB, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. The impact on ordinary folk was unmeasurable. They toiled day and night, paid taxes and raised families, only to find the rich and powerful feeding on their earnings. On 9 May, 2018, Malaysians walked to the polling stations determined to throw out a corrupt government.

A BRAVE, NEW MALAYSIA FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

May 9 was a significant day for all Malaysians. It heralded a new landscape – economic, social and political – for the citizens.

This book is a fascinating read that is retold through the inner stirrings of a young boy, an unfortunate victim of a "business as usual" corrupt system that poses a serious threat to the nation's economy. In the face of rising costs and unemployment, the boy yearned for a change. Will tomorrow ever come?

By sharing glimpses from the innocent lenses of a child, the author has painted a stark contrast of childlike simplicity with the world of grown-ups that is consumed by greed and glittering gems. It captures the journey of a nation that has witnessed the most dramatic trajectories of greed and power.

As the journey unfolds through the pages, we blush at the shameful erosion of a political system and the painful departure of self-serving leaders. We applaud the triumphant ushering of a new team who would pick up the pieces and lead the people to new beginnings. This is a heartwarming narrative where Malaysians came together as one, and with a singular voice, they ignited the historic shift.

Through a compelling compilation of observations from journalists, commentators and political activists, veteran journalist and academic Krishnamoorthy sheds penetrating insights into the events leading to the iconic moment when the country's once longest ruling Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, saw it as a call of duty to restore the nation's glory. At age 93, he saved the country from the pits of kleptocracy.

May 9 People Power Saves Malaysia is a story of hurt and healing, abuse and forgiveness, of gloom and glory, and of tears and triumph. It is a tribute to Malaysians and Tun Dr Mahathir. Indeed, it celebrates the courage, hope and dignity of Malaysians -- to create a brave, new Malaysia. Surely, tomorrow will come, and it will be better than today.

Datuk Seri Azman Ujang
Chairman of Bernama

M. Krishnamoorthy
Associate Professor and Author



ISBN 978-967-12950-2-1

