TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
FATHER OF MODERNISATION
FOURTH PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA
(1981-2003)

1925

BIRTH
Tun Dr. Mahathir was born on 10th July at Kg Seberang Perak, Alor Star, Kedah to Mohamad bin Iskandar and Wan Tempawan binti Wan Hanafi. He was the youngest of nine siblings.

1931

SCHOOL
He attended Sekolah Melayu Seberang Perak for his primary education and Kolej Sultan Abdul Hamid for secondary school.

1941

WWII
The Japanese invaded Malaya and Tun Mahathir's education was interrupted as schools were closed. Tun attended the Japanese school, the Nippon Gakko, briefly and left to sell food to help his family.

1945

WWII ENDS
Tun Dr. Mahathir resumed his education at Kolej Sultan Abdul Hamid in Standard Nine. He passed his Junior Cambridge exams.

1946

UMNO
Tun Mahathir joined UMNO, becoming one of its earliest members. He supported the party's objectives in opposing the Malayan Union.

POLITICS
Tun Mahathir joined the campaigns against the Malayan Union. "I did not relish the idea of becoming dispossessed in my ancestral land, a land that was mine to begin with, or seeing my own people's land becoming everybody else's."

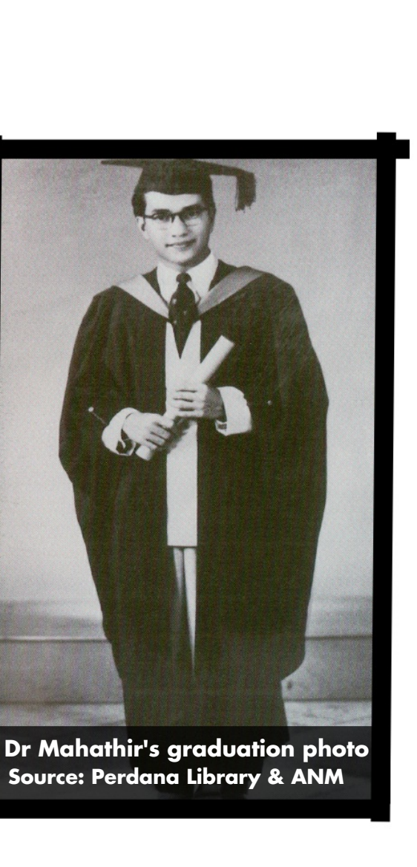
1947

AWAITS SCHOLARSHIP
Tun Mahathir worked as a clerk at the office of The Custodian of Enemy Property while he waited for news of his scholarship application.

CHE DET
Tun Mahathir enrolled at King Edward VII College of Medicine in Singapore to study medicine as a government scholar. He wrote for The Sunday Times (now: The Straits Times) under his pen name, C.H.E Det.

1953

DR. MAHATHIR
Tun Mahathir graduated as a doctor. He did his housemanship in Penang General Hospital before he was assigned as a Medical Officer to Alor Star General Hospital.



Dr Mahathir's graduation photo
Source: Perdana Library & ANM

1956

Tun Mahathir & Tun Siti Hasmah on their wedding day
Source: Perdana Library & ANM

MARRIED MAN
Tun Mahathir married Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah in a wedding caremony at Jalan Imbi, Kuala Lumpur.

1957

MAHA CLINIC
Tun Mahathir left government service and opened MAHA Clinic on Jalan Tunku Ibrahim, Alor Star. It was the first private clinic owned by a Malay at the time.

1958

UMNO KEDAH
Tun was elected to Kedah UMNO's Committee as head of its political sub-committee.

1964

BECOMING MP
Tun Mahathir won the Kota Setar seat and became a Member of Parliament.

1965

AAPSO; UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL
Tun was elected as Chairman of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation's Committee (AAPSO) Malaysia. Tun Mahathir also became UMNO Supreme Council Member.

1969

LOST
Tun Mahathir lost his parliamentary seat during the third general election as he was viewed as "anti-Chinese" and a Malay ultra by the non-Malays.

EXPELLED
Following the 13th May racial riots, Tun Mahathir, in a letter, accused Tunku of ignoring the plight of the Malays. Tun Mahathir was expelled from UMNO and returned to Alor Setar to serve as a doctor at his clinic.

1970

MALAY DILEMMA
Tun Mahathir wrote the book The Malay Dilemma.

BANNED
The Malay Dilemma was banned by the M'sian government.

1972

REJOINED UMNO
Tun Mahathir rejoined UMNO and not long after, was elected as an UMNO Supreme Council Member (he won the highest number of votes), nominated as a member of the Dewan Negara, and became a senator.

UM & UKM
He was appointed a Member of the University Malaya Council. He also became Chairman of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

1974

KUBANG PASU
Tun Mahathir won the Kubang Pasu seat unopposed in the 1974 GE and returned as MP. He was soon appointed as the Minister of Education. Following his appointment, Tun Dr. Mahathir closed Klinik Maha.

1975

UMNO VP
Tun Mahathir was elected as Vice President of UMNO.

1976

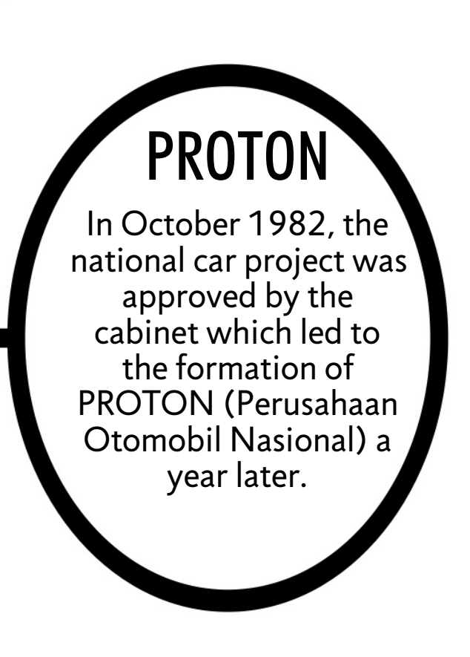
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
Tun Mahathir was selected to be the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia by Tun Hussein Onn.

1977

TRADE & INDUSTRY
Tun Mahathir was appointed Minister of International Trade & Industry.

1981

PRIME MINISTER
On 16th July 1981, Tun Mahathir succeeded Tun Hussein Onn to become the fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia. He was 56 years old. Tun Musa Hitam became his Deputy.



Becoming PM - 1981
Source: Perdana Library & ANM

1982

1982 GE
BN won decisively in the 1982 general elections, winning 132 of the 154 seats that were contested. Tun Dr. Mahathir launched the Bersih, Cekap & Amanah campaign (Clean, Efficient & Trustworthy).

PROTON
In October 1982, the national car project was approved by the cabinet which led to the formation of PROTON (Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional) a year later.

Official launch of the first Proton Saga in September 1985
Source: Perdana Library & ANM

1983

MALAYSIA INC.
On 25th February, Tun Mahathir launched the Malaysia Incorporated concept which was a concept of close cooperation between the public and private sectors.

1986

2nd TERM AS PM
On 2nd & 3rd August, the 7th General Election was held. BN won 148 out of 177 seats. Tun began his second term as Prime Minister and held an additional portfolio as the Minister of Home Affairs.

1987

MINISTER OF JUSTICE
Tun Mahathir added a new portfolio as the Minister of Justice.

1988

UMNO BARU
The High Court of Malaysia declared UMNO an unlawful society. Shortly thereafter, Tun Dr. Mahathir successfully registered UMNO Baru.

HEART ATTACK
Tun Mahathir suffered a heart attack and successfully underwent a coronary bypass at a Malaysian hospital.

1989

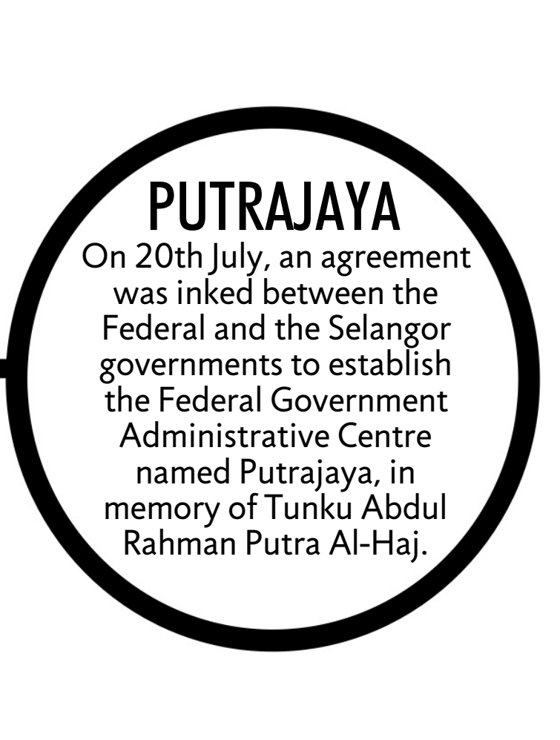
1990

1990 GE
On 20th & 21st October, the 8th General Election was held. BN won 127 seats out of 180 seats. Tun Mahathir began his third term as the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

1991

VISION 2020
Tun Mahathir introduced 'Vision 2020' during the tabling of the Sixth Malaysia Plan. The vision is for the nation to become a self-sufficient industrialised nation by the year 2020.

1992



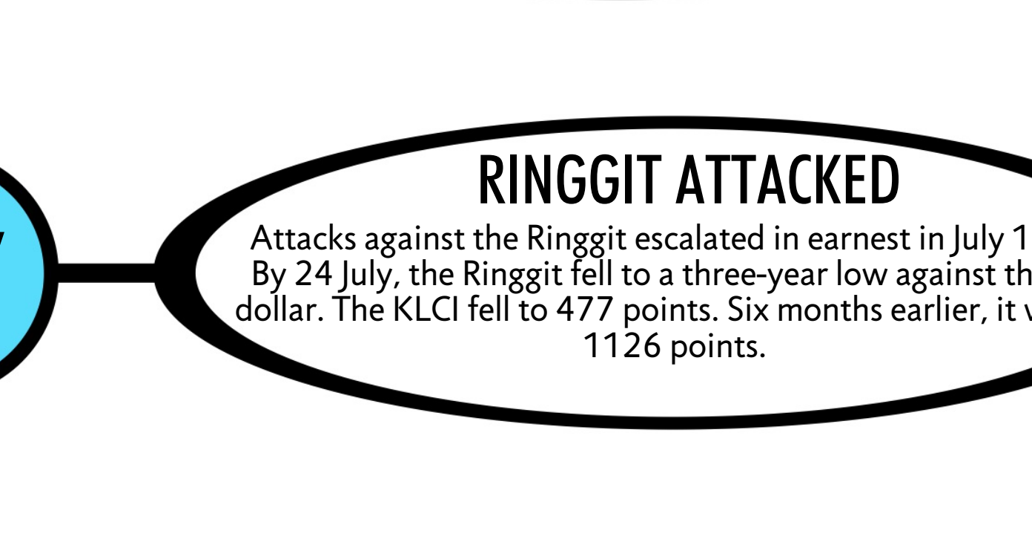
Tun Mahathir overseeing the KLCC Project
Source: Perdana Library & ANM

KLCC
In September, Tun Mahathir launched the KLCC (Kuala Lumpur City Centre) Project and the Petronas Twin Towers.

1995

4th TERM AS PM
In April, the 9th General Election was held: BN won 162 out of 192 seats. Tun Mahathir began his fourth term as Prime Minister.

PUTRAJAYA
On 20th July, an agreement was inked between the Federal and the Selangor governments to establish the Federal Government Administrative Centre named Putrajaya, in memory of Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj.



Putrajaya groundbreaking ceremony
Source: Perdana Library & ANM

1996

MSC
Tun Mahathir launched the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), Malaysia's national ICT initiative.

1997

RINGGIT ATTACKED
Attacks against the Ringgit escalated in earnest in July 1997. By 24 July, the Ringgit fell to a three-year low against the US dollar. The KLCI fell to 477 points. Six months earlier, it was at 1126 points.

1998

FINANCE
Tun added another portfolio - Finance after Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was sacked from Cabinet. He was Malaysia's Minister of Finance from 1998 - 2003.

NEAC
The National Economic Action Council (NEAC) was created to advise the Government on all issues related to the financial crisis.

CAPITAL CONTROLS
On 1st September 1998, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad imposed capital controls and pegged the Ringgit at RM3.8 to the US dollar.

KLIA
Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah took the first domestic flight out from KLIA to Langkawi at 7.20am on 30 June 1998.

Tun Mahathir with a model of a Boeing 727 which he carved himself. Woodcarving was one of his hobbies.
Source: Perdana Library & ANM

2002

RESIGNATION
Tun announced his resignation during the 2002 UMNO General Assembly and agreed to defer the resignation to a year later, 2003.

2003

Tun Mahathir's final day as Prime Minister of Malaysia
Source: Perdana Library & ANM

END OF AN ERA
Tun stepped down as Prime Minister after 22 years in office.

This infographic was compiled by Perdana Leadership Foundation from a variety of sources including Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's autobiography, A Doctor in the House (MPH, 2011). A more elaborate visual timeline of Tun Dr. Mahathir as well as that of other former Prime Ministers of Malaysia are available at http://www.perdana.org.my/pms-of-malaysia/visual-timeline.

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