

# PERDANA MAGAZINE

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2018

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MESSAGE FROM
TAN SRI AZMAN HASHIM,
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

#### What an eventful year 2018 has turned out to be!

Our 14th General Elections took place in May, and for the first time ever since Independence, we experienced a change of government, with Pakatan Rakyat led by the indefatigable Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad winning the people's votes. The event did not just mark a turning point in our nation's history, it also forged new records, with Tun being the oldest elected leader of government in the world, and the first Malaysian Prime Minister to be elected to power twice (and re-elected after a lapse of 15 years!).

This second time around will not be an easy ride, either, as the economic, social, and political landscape has changed dramatically over the past decade and Malaysian citizens have much loftier expectations of their elected representatives. With social media spreading news and views within minutes, if not seconds, it won't just be Malaysians keeping a hawk eye on the new government, but also the entire world.

What is most important, however, is that the elections and change of government took place peacefully, without any rioting or violent outbreaks. This speaks volumes about the maturity of Malaysians in accepting change, and in valuing the peace and harmony we've enjoyed since Independence. Credit must also be given to the former leaders of government for graciously accepting defeat and handing over power.

I think of the Malaysian children yet to be born and the history books they will read, and I can only speculate as to how the events of 2018, as well as other watershed events in our nation's history, will be presented and digested. As one politician once said, "History never looks like history when you are living through it." What is essential, though, is that history is not forgotten but is learnt, and is understood as much as it is possible to understand events (and people) that take place before one's time.

For us at Perdana Leadership Foundation, the work to document history continues, and the past year has certainly given us a lot of material to archive. The value of history to inform the present and the future is what PLF has stood for since our inception in 2003, and what we aim to deliver to members of the public, but especially to our fellow Malaysians. We are in wholehearted agreement with Marcus Garvey who pointed out that, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots".

We say goodbye to 2018, as 2019 marches through our doors. Each new year brings with it new challenges, but if the past year has been an indicator, then I am confident that Malaysia will prevail over whatever storms come our way, and emerge a stronger and wiser nation.

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#### **Editorial Team**

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Zarina Abu Bakar

#### **ASSISTANT EDITORS**

Nurul Humaira Kamarulzaman Mohammad Faridzuan Abd Rahman

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Maizatul Kartini Kamaruldin Suriyana Mohd Noor Magdalena Anak Lampas

#### PHOTOS BY

Mohammad Faridzuan Abd Rahman Nurul Humaira Kamarulzaman Roymax Sebastian

#### COVER PHOTO BY

Mohd Irman bin Ismail

#### **LAYOUT & DESIGN**

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#### **Contents**

4 | VISITS IN 2018 PLF Remains Popular with Visitors

6 | HONORARY PRESIDENT'S OFFICE An Eventful Year for Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

8 | TUN TALKS Learning from the Wise and Experienced



10 FOCUS

DR MURAD
MERICAN:
"MALAYS WERE
THE MOST
COSMOPOLITAN
PEOPLE IN
THE WORLD"



14 | PLF MERDEKA PHOTO CONTEST 2018
Demonstrating Patriotic Love through Photography

13 | BOOK EXCERPT Abdullah Munsyi and the Orang Putih

18 | INFORMATION LITERACY Learning Malaysian History at Perdana Leadership Foundation

20 | PLF WORKSHOPS The Map 2.0 Strategic Decision-Making & Team Building Workshop

21 | WEBSITE CONTENT A Rich Online Resource

22 | BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS PLF Staff Share Their Favourite Books

24 | PLF BOOKS & MERCHANDISE

25 | DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS Our Publications

**Go Digital** 

26 | BOOK EXCERPT An Excerpt from A Conversation with Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz



27 | ABOUT PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

#### **VISITS**



Staff from Jabatan Perubatan, Kesihatan & Pergigian, Taiping in our main lobby

#### PLF REMAINS POPULAR WITH VISITORS

In 2018, Perdana Leadership Foundation received more than 1,200 visitors from local and international organisations, government agencies, libraries, academic institutions, and schools. The visitors toured the foundation, and explored our library's physical and digital collections, as well as viewed the displays in our exhibition area.

PLF is located in Precinct 8, Putrajaya and the Perdana Library is open to the public on weekdays from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm. We welcome group visits on weekdays via appointments. To arrange for a group tour, kindly contact our Librarian, Encik Adnan Haris, at 03-88858940 or e-mail library@perdana.org.my.



Delegates from Sri Lanka learning about PLF's digitisation process



Students of Sekolah Kebangsaan Kampung Medan, Kuala Langat, in Perdana Library



Students of the Al Zahra Primary School, Indonesia, making PLF a stop on their Putrajaya tour













#### **HONORARY PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

#### AN EVENTFUL YEAR FOR TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

To say that 2018 was an eventful year for our Honorary President, YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, would be an understatement. In May, Tun Dr Mahathir's coalition, Pakatan Harapan, won the 14th General Election thus making him Malaysia's 7th Prime Minister, and the first ever to hold the position twice, his first tenure being from 1981 to 2003. In the run up to the elections, Tun was tireless in his campaigns, delivering speeches all over the country to thousands of voters.

PLF was honoured that YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad conducted his early days of office as Prime Minister at the Foundation, and it was the staff's privilege to meet and be photographed with the Prime Minister. PLF was also the venue for receiving foreign leaders such as HRH Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, and HE Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore.

Despite his crowded calendar, Tun still graced the annual PLF Majlis Berbuka Puasa, where the atmosphere was electric as soon as he joined the crowd, with everyone jostling to congratulate him on his electoral victory.











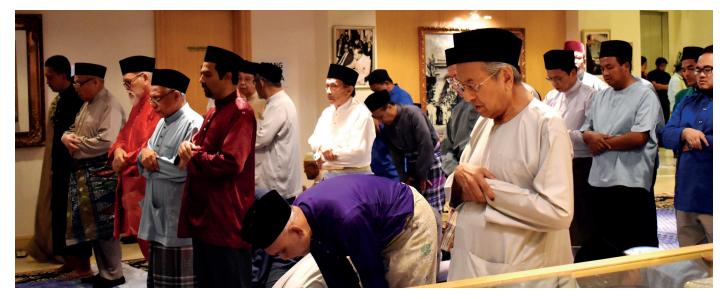






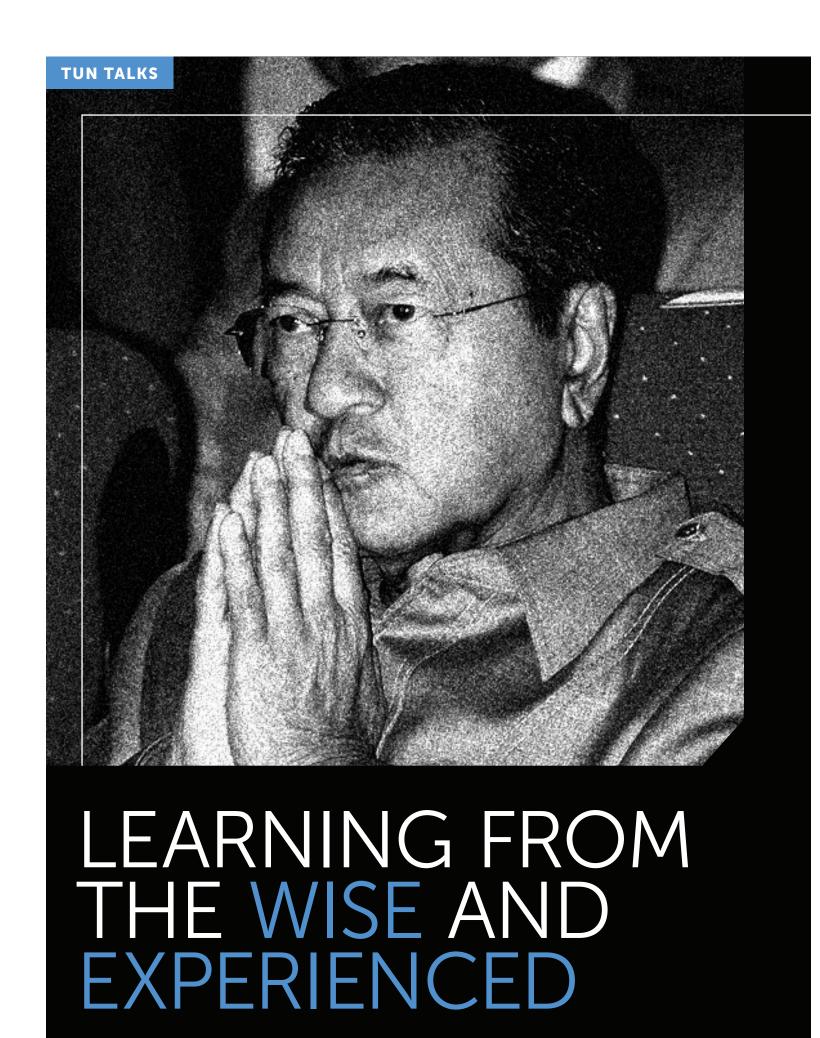












f you would like to hear what our fourth and seventh Prime Minister, YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, thinks about matters such as affirmative action, federal-state relations, and political stability, we invite you to visit our "Tun Talks" page on our website, where we have uploaded 18 podcasts or audio excerpts of his speeches and our conversations with him. These episodes have been specially curated and edited to ensure a smooth listening experience, where the essence of each conversation and speech is distilled.

The URL is at: http://bit.ly/TunTalks

Below are the synopses from the more popular episodes.

#### **CURBING ABUSES**

In this enlightening interview, conducted just prior to the historic 14th General Election, Tun Dr Mahathir talks about the ways a Pakatan Harapan government would ensure that future prime ministers will not be able to abuse the system to their own ends.

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

In this insightful interview, Tun Dr Mahathir talks about various financial-related matters including why GST should dismantled, why privatisation works, why the concept of Malaysia Inc (modelled after Japan Inc) encourages foreign direct investment, and why Government-Linked Companies are necessary.

#### FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS: A HISTORY

Tun Dr Mahathir talks about how the Malaysian Federation came about and explains how a central government works with the various states in the federation.

#### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Tun talks about the importance of having affirmative action so as to reduce the economic disparity between the Malays and non-Malays but highlights that this should not be regarded as a "permanent privilege". He says those who consider affirmative action as a symbol of their superior status should look at how the American Indians need special rights just to survive.

#### **BANGSA MALAYSIA**

Tun hopes that someday, through mixing with each other and having common activities together, the different races in Malaysia will also learn to see themselves as Malaysian first. This will take a long time, he says, but as it is, we should be proud that the different races are able to live in peace with each other.

#### Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Federal-State Relations

This is an edited excerpt from his full speech at our 20th Perdana Discourse Series in 2016.

he administration of a federation is far more complex than that of a union of states. There has to be a division of power between the states and the central government. This division of power was worked out by people who were quite knowledgeable about the administration of the Malay States. They included former British civil servants who understood the sensitivity of the rulers and the need for the states to retain some of its identity and powers. Eventually, this division of power was written into the Constitution of Malaya.

The Malayan, and now Malaysian, Constitution was mostly derived from the British constitution. The position of the rulers was maintained but their power was diminished in terms of administration. They would still be the titular heads of state with the government formed by elected representatives working through the state or federal legislative council. This was agreed upon but then came the question of head of government. We cannot have nine heads of government in a single country even if it is a federation!

Thus the founding fathers such as Tunku Abdul Rahman decided that one of the nine state rulers should hold the post of head of government. The Malay rulers considered themselves equal to one another and would not accept it if the post was permanent. This lead to the idea of having the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or Federal Head of Government installed for five years after which another ruler would be appointed. This enabled the rulers to retain their positions in the states while acknowledging their place within the federation where one of them is the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. This was a unique solution to the problem that other countries faced as well.

The states have to give up some of their powers to the federal government – principally these relate to security, the police and the armed forces - while retaining their own administrators. Although there are federal legislators in the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara, the states have their own state legislative councils. Thus, we still have the multiple governments we had when we were under British rule. However, the state councils have limited power, especially with regard to taxes. They are allowed to tax activities that are based on the resources of the state, such as mining activities, but income taxes are levied by the federal government. Thus, there is wealth sharing between the states and the federal government."

### DR MURAD MERICAN & HIS STUDY OF OCCIDENTALISM: "MALAYS WERE THE MOST COSMOPOLITAN PEOPLE IN THE WORLD"



Professor Dato' Dr. Ahmad Murad Merican was the first recipient of the Perdana Leadership Foundation's Honorary President Resident Fellowship.

He is a faculty member of the Centre for Policy Research and International Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Minden / Bukit Tok Jenaton, Pulau Pinang. He has been a visiting professor at Universitas Andalas, Padang, West Sumatra, and an adjunct lecturer at the National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage in Kuala Lumpur. His academic and research interests are in Malay Intellectual History, Journalism and Mass Communication, and History of the Social Sciences. In recent years, he has been working on the history and historiography of Pulau Pinang.

Professor Ahmad Murad has published 14 books and monographs. He is a columnist for the New Straits Times and the New Sunday Times, as well for the monthly Dewan Masyarakat. He has been an academic for 32 years this year. He was a journalist with the Malaysian National News Agency in the early 1980s.

#### Tell us what you do and what your research area is at the university.

I am attached to the Centre for Policy Research and International Studies (Cenpris) Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang. Over the years, I was given the responsibility and opportunity to pursue a number of areas of interests. Apart from supervising postgraduate students in the areas of journalism, media studies and intellectual history, one of my main focus is engaging in the study and history of Pulau Pinang. We can call it as Pulau Pinang Studies.

The main objective is to establish and mainstream a marginal narrative and perspective on the history and historiography of Pulau Pinang. Note that I am not a historian by training, nor do I come from the history department. My interest lies in the problem of the mis-or under-representation of Pulau Pinang history, as much of it is colonial. Hence the advocacies are to create awareness and interest.

We have established the Syarahan Cenpris-Dato' Jenaton, a monthly lecture series on the Malay narrative, capturing oral history, the publication of books (one on oral history narratives, and the other, an annotated bibliography on holdings on Pulau Pinang Malay history at USM's Pepustakaan Hamzah Sendut). A Pulau Pinang Malay encyclopaedia is also being planned. Also relevant to this advocacy is work on the digitisation, transliteration and meta data of the Francis Light Letters, held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, which is now reposited at USM. Another related

area is developing a discourse on decolonisation with Cenpris as the centre. To that end, several talks and seminars have been organised.

Finally, Cenpris was given a column in the New Sunday Times since March 2016. The initial fortnight column has now become weekly. The column publishes commentaries by the staff of Cenpris on their work and form part of the Center's public advocacy in bringing out comments and criticisms of society, and policy. This signifies the Centre's engagement with the policy elites and the intelligent public.

#### What is this book about?

The book is on Malay views of the Other; of Malay consciousness and engagement with the West, which would later in the modern period be integral history. By Malay, we refer largely to the Malay-speaking society in the Malay archipelago, not just in Malaysia. Over the centuries, the Malay description of the Other has been neutral and unproblematic. This contrasts with the Japanese who were fearful of the Portuguese and Spaniards, who they called Nanbanjin, or "southern barbarians". The Malays accommodated those from the atas angin (geographically, peoples from the west of the river Sindh) into the Malay world. From how the West was imagined, constructed, described, projected, and represented in Malay texts, the Malays did not have politically and culturally antagonistic relations with the West. In a significant way, this book represents how Malays produced knowledge and constructed an image about Europe and the Western world.

The book comprises two major parts – commentaries and corpus. The latter is to provide sufficient insights into early encounters of the Malays with the West. It allows the text to speak for itself. Rum, Ferringhi/ Feranggi/ Peranggi/ Frangy; Belanda/ Holanda/ Wolanda; Inggeris/ Engrees/ Inglan and their various spellings as well as orang putih and Eropah are used as markers in Malay texts, indicative of the form of knowledge of the Other.

# When you proposed your research idea to PLF, it was originally focused on Malay intellectualism through the ages. How did research in that area lead to you researching Malay views of the West?

After I had divided my research into several parts, I discovered that my narration would not appeal to the non-academic, as it was dominated by social science technicalities. As the idea of the study was to develop an interpretation that is accessible for public consumption, it was deemed necessary to reorganise the work and translate a selected corpus (from Bahasa Melayu to English) that speaks directly to the reader. Malay views of the West is an accessible framework whereby commentaries and the corpus can be combined in a single book. Another important concern was the availability of knowledge that the Malays had on the West. While I cannot say there is systematic theoretical knowledge (an epistemology), there is certainly a huge corpus of work.

#### Over the centuries, the Malay description of the Other has been neutral and unproblematic

## What is the most interesting discovery you made in the course of your research?

That the idea of the 'foreigner' has been around since the 14th century, and that there was much interaction between the Malays and the West and its various forms and imagination. I also discovered a sizeable corpus of work as proof to counter any notion that the Malays are inward-looking.

Is there a change over time in the views of the Malays towards foreigners, especially of western people? Do you think that now we have proven ourselves to be as capable, or even

#### more so, than the Westerners, that there is much less tendency for Malays to "look up" to the West?

Foreigners have been coming to the Malay archipelago ever since the 1st century AD, perhaps even earlier. The foreigner is a familiar figure. The Malays are familiar with the Arabs, the Indians, and the Chinese through the commercial trade and silk routes which brought in goods, culture, and ideas. There was much international trade with the mediterranean world through the Arabs, with the Indian sub-continent, and with the East through the Chinese and Okinawans from the Ryukyus. The Malays were welcoming. There was no antagonism against foreigners. In the Melakan period of Malay Enlightenment, more than 80 languages were spoken. The Malays were indeed the most cosmopolitan people in the world – more so when compared to the Japanese or the Chinese. The former, in the 16th century, had described the Portuguese as "Southern Barbarians." In contrast, there was no hostility among the Malay-speaking societies in the Malay Archipelago.

But things began to move away from that impartial, neutral position as the Europeans penetrated Malay society; The proverb "Bagai Belanda minta tanah" (Like the Dutch asking for land) manifests that experience. That change began to be more visible when the British started to govern Malaya, bringing along a policy of migration from China and India that began to worry and irritate the Malays. In the modern post-Merdeka era, especially in the post-1969 period, the West is seen as more of a collaborator. At least that is what I would like to think, although among the Malay political and policy elites to this day, the colonial and captive-minded still permeates.

Do you think that the demarcation of East vs West by geography is still as relevant today, in the age of the Internet, where physical boundaries matter less and values and even culture seep across borders? Do you agree with the

# view that the geographical definition of East vs West are slowly being supplanted by the wealth divide, ie: Haves vs Have-Nots?

East or West is a construct, an imagination, a semantic that we have come to inherit. There certainly is a geography and a history. In the 'traditional' modern discourse, there is an abstract and there is a concrete meaning. The concrete is geographical - Europe, The Americas, Australia and New Zealand - much referring to the White population. Even South America, to Malaysians and Malays, are White.

The abstract meaning refers to any so-called modern and advanced societies which in this case also includes Japan. Throughout the period, many categories have been created – the Third World, the South, the BRIC countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China. These are based on wealth and the economies.

# Digital geographies are reorienting our position, our culture and identities.

With the digital revolution and "Google", east and west can be anywhere, and nowhere. Digital geographies are reorienting our position, our culture and identities. The West would have to reinvent itself. With China dominating the globalising of the world with its media and technologies, would it be the case of "Easternising the West"? And would we come to a time when the West is excluded in how wealth is defined?

#### What are your views of our Prime Minister's exhortations for Malaysians to "Look East" instead of turning to the West? (This is not recent, but was also a trademark of his leadership in the '80s and '90s.)

The "Look East" Policy must be understood by looking at how the Japanese responded to the West. What the Prime

Minister aspires is for the Malays and Malaysia to "duduk sama rendah" and "berdiri sama tinggi" (to be equals) with the West. It is Tun Mahathir's response on crafting Malaysia as an advanced nation. To become an advanced nation, we must have an advanced society. To achieve an advanced society, we must induce the attitude and culture of a "producer" nation, instead of being only a nation that consumes. To become a "producer" nation, we need to establish originality in knowledge, values, and ethics. This is what the Japanese have achieved over the last 400 years, especially after the Meiji Restoration. The Japanese have developed a whole system of not being dependent on any nation for their well-being.

#### What are you working on right now?

I am finalising my study on the consciousness of history (of Malaysia) among Malaysians. The other is to rework, revise and translate to English my book on the history of the Malays in Pulau Pinang – a forgotten narrative.

## You have two other books to be published under the Perdana Fellowship? Can you share what they are about?

One, is the idea of the West through modern Malay eyes. The book looks at Malay journalistic and sociological discourse in the modern period. The other is on Tun Dr. Mahathir's engagement with the West. The focus for both is how the West or its ideas are constructed and imagined in this part of the word.

#### What books have most impacted your thinking, if any?

This is not easy to say. But over the years, I have cited in various contexts the books that one should read to understand ourselves and who we are in the scheme of things – secular and sacred. It may not be the books per se but the thoughts and ideas from known or not-so-celebrated writers, thinkers, and intellectuals that have created an impression over my conscious life. Over the decades since the 1970s, I have been attracted to works by Syed

# To become a "producer" nation, we need to establish originality in knowledge, values, and ethics.

Naquib al-Attas, notably his Islam and Secularism; Edward W. Said's works, including Orientalism; Jalaluddin Rumi's Mathnawi, William Chittick's books and commentaries on Rumi, Ibn Arabi and Sufism; Seyyed Hossein Nasr's various books about philosophy, Islam and the history of science; Abdul Aziz Ishak's Mencari Bako, W.R. Roff's Malay Nationalism, Anthony Milner's The Malays as well as Leonard Andaya's Leaves from the Same Tree and A History of Malaysia (with Barbara Andaya), and Mahathir Mohamad's The Malay Dilemma.

#### What books are you currently reading?

To cite a few: Ilber Ortayli (2009). Discovering the Ottomans; Volker Granowsky (ed.) (2011), Southeast Asian Historiography: Unravelling the Myths; Ziauddin Sardar (2014) Mecca: The Sacred City; Steven Pinker (2015) The Sense of Style; Kemil Akdogan (2008) Science in Islam and the West; R. Bonney (1974), Kedah 1771 – 1821: The Search for Security and Independence. The last one is a re-reading at revising the Pulau Pinang narrative.

# What book(s) would you recommend as good introductions to someone who is keen to know more about Orientalism and Occidentalism?

Try the following two books. Syed Hussein Alatas (1977). The Myth of the Lazy Native: A study of the image of the. Malays, Filipinos and Javanese from the 16th to the 20th Century and its Function in the Ideology of Colonial Capitalism; and K.M. Panikkar (1993) Asia and Western Dominance: A survey of the Vasco Da Gama Epoch of Asian history.

#### **BOOK EXCERPT**

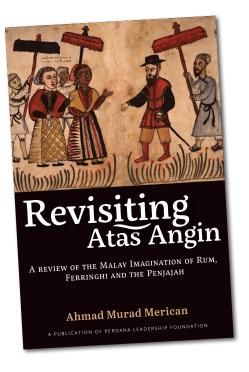
# ABDULLAH MUNSYI AND THE ORANG PUTIH

Excerpted from Chapter 2 of "Revisiting Atas Angin — A Review of the Malay Imagination of Rum, Ferringhi, and the Penjajah" by Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Murad Merican, which will be published by Perdana Leadership Foundation in March 2019

he Hikayat Abdullah was written in response to a request made by his "beloved White Friend" in 1840. Hadijah Rahmat (2001, 218) citing Skinner (1978) and Trail (1981) suggests that Abdullah's friend who was a missionary, Alfred North, had attached a document, dated Singapore 1843, to a copy of the Hikayat which he then sent to the Library of Congress in Washington. The document, published by Skinner (1978), throws considerable light on how Abdullah was motivated and influenced by North in writing not only his Hikayat Abdullah but also his travelogue, Kisah Pelayaran Abdullah. In his document, Alfred North writes:

Sometime after, I suggested to him that he might compose a work of deep interest, such as had never been thought of by any Malay, unless an exception be found in the title work mentioned in Marsden's Malay Grammar, page 214. I told him that I had never found anything in the Malay language except silly tales, useful indeed as showing how words are used, but containing nothing calculated to improve the minds of the people; and that it was a sad error into which they had fallen in supposing everyday occurrences, and all manner of things about

them, too vulgar to be subjects of grave composition; nay, that unless they could be convinced of their error, they could never go forward a single step in civilisation. I gave him a list of topics on which it would be proper to enlarge a little, in writing a memoir of himself, such as the character of his father, his opinions, treatment of children, and the like; then the circumstances of his own early education, and whatever of interest he could recollect of his whole life; with these things should be interspersed remarks on the characters of the eminent men he had taught. Raffles, Dr. Milne, Crawfurd, and others; on Malay superstition, schools, domestic life; their rajas, customs, laws, and whatever Europeans would like to be informed of, which would naturally be concealed from their observation. From these general hints he has composed a work of singular interest, in beautiful Malay, and in all respects a new thing in the language. He has dwelt much on the character of one of the Malay Sultans of Singapore, and the fortunes of his family. He has taken particular pains to introduce many of the everyday phrases and idioms of the people; so that the



book is also a store house for the student of the language (Skinner, 1978, 480–481 in Hadijah 2001).

Indeed, Abdullah had worked for North as a teacher and translator. A remarkable symbiosis seemed to have developed between the two men, but North's motives were not entirely altruistic (Sweeney, 2006). In many ways, Abdullah is seen as a controversial figure. He is almost always described as a traitor to the Malays. His identity of Malay consciousness is not always pleasant. At times, he was identified as an Indian and his Malayness has been questioned. He was also regarded as a slave to Western imperialism. One frequently comes across such views in various writings found in the Malay press and journals. According to Shaharuddin Maaruf (1988), there are several reasons for such judgements. The first is due to the history of colonialism and imperialism in the region—the kind of nationalism that has developed among many Malays in response to colonialism which frowns on all criticisms of Malay society. Shaharuddin describes it as "a partisanship that lacks objectivity" (p. 24). Critics of Malay society run the risk of being regarded as anti-Malay and pro non-Malay, and Abdullah was a victim.

#### PLF MERDEKA PHOTO CONTEST 2018

This year, the Perdana Leadership Foundation organised its second Merdeka Photo Contest themed "Saya Sayang Malaysia", in conjunction with Malaysia's Merdeka theme which was Sayangi Malaysiaku. The photo contest was held solely on Instagram from the 1st August until 16th September 2018. Throughout its month and a half long run, the contest received more than 740 entries from 322 entrants across the country.

On December 12th 2018, a prizegiving ceremony was held here at the Perdana Leadership Foundation to celebrate and award the winners of the Merdeka Photo Contest 2018. Backed by sponsorship from DRB-HICOM, the top prize of this year's photo contest is RM1,000 in cash, RM50 book vouchers from MPH, and exclusive PLF merchandise. The winners received their prizes from Tan Sri Nik Mohamed Yaacob, Executive Director, Perdana Leadership Foundation, and Mr Mahmood Abdul Razak, Head of Group Strategic Communications DRB-HICOM.

All 740 entries were evaluated by our judges Mr Che Ahmad Azhar, a photography lecturer from MMU, and Mr Mat Zain Abdullah, a street photographer specializes in heritage building photography. Auxiliary evaluations were also provided by members of DRB-HICOM, as well as our fellow staff members.

#### **JUDGES:**

# CHE. HWWD TOURS

Mr Che Ahmad Azhar, Photography Lecturer, MMU



Mr Zain Abdullah, Banker, CIMB Photographer

#### **WINNERS:**

1st Place: Mr Mohd Irman bin Ismail
2nd Place: Mr Mohd Samsi bin Sumairi
3rd Place: Mr Muhammad Syafiq bin Zainal
4th Place: Mr Mohd Nazri bin Sulaiman

**5th Place:** Mr Lee Shing Yaw

**6th Place:** Mr Muhammad Elias bin Shuid **7th Place:** Mr Mohammad Fikhri bin Bakri

**8th Place:** Mr Redzuan bin Bohari **9th Place:** Mr Edanan Taiban

**10th Place:** Mr Mohd Amin bin Hadarih

11th Place: Mr Muhamad Muzairi bin Mustapa12th Place: Mr Nor Hidayat bin Haji Mohamed

**13th Place:** Mr Abdul Jalil bin Sapian

**14th Place:** Mr Mohd Hamizan Syafiq bin Rosli

**15th Place:** Mrs Zarina binti Ismail **16th Place:** Mr Lee Leong Joo

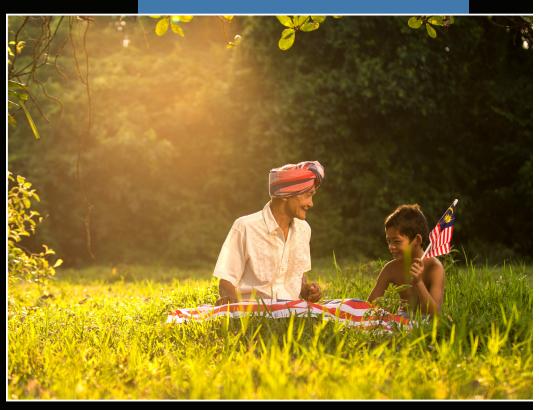
**17th Place:** Mr Saiful Azim bin Arif Sunaryo

**18th Place:** Mr Tong Eng Chung

**19th Place:** Mr Muhammed Anis Igbal bin Mohd Reza

**20th Place:** Mr Mohammad Arif bin Mohdana

Most Popular: Mr Kamarulzaman bin Ali



"Ketika negara mencapai kemerdekaan pada 31 Ogos 1957, antara generasi tua dengan generasi muda berperanan sebagai tapak semaian benih penyatuan hasrat, penyatuan matlamat kemerdekaan. Untul kemerdekaan dan tauladan untuk generasi akan datang." **– Mohd Irman bin Ismail** 

#### **DEMONSTRATING PATRIOTIC LOVE THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY**

The Foundation would like to once again congratulate all our winners and thank everyone who participated. We will be back again in 2019



"Warna Warni Kemerdekaan mencakupi pelbagai etnik, budaya dan agama; bersatu dalam sanubari generasi muda untuk Sayangi Malaysiaku." **– Mohd Samsi bin Sumairi** 



"Kemerdekaan dituntut penuh cabaran, cekal dan tabah senjata anak watan, Kini Malaysiaku sejahtera dan aman, Ku potretkan jalur gemilang dengan jahitan." **– Muhammad Syafiq bin Zainal** 



si muda, kita telah 1. Untuk memberi erti

#### PLF MERDEKA PHOTO CONTEST 2018



1st Place winner, Mr Irman bin Ismail.



2nd Place winner, Mr Samsi bin Sumairi.



17th Place winner, Mr Saiful Azim bin Arif Sunaryo.



Puan Zarina binti Ismail receiving her prize, accompanied by her young son



12th Place winner, Nor Hidayat bin Haji Mohamed.



5th Place winner, Mr Lee Shing Yaw.



Contest judge Mr Che Ahmad Azhar receiving his token of appreciation.



(Left to Right) Mr Zain Abdullah, Tan Sri Nik Mohamed Yaacob, Mr Mahmood Abdul Razak, Mr Che Ahmad Azhar, before the event.



13th Place winner, Mr Abdul Jalil bin Sapian, with his sons.



3rd Place winner, Mr Syafiq bin Zainal.



Tan Sri Nik Mohamed (right) presenting a token of appreciation to Mr Mahmood.



13th Place winner, Mr Abdul Jalil Sapian, all smiles at receiving his prize



A budding photographer basking in the attention!



Winners of the Merdeka Photo Contest 2018 photographed together with Tan Sri Nik and Mr Mahmood.



PLF Merdeka Photo Contest 2018 Prizegiving Ceremony VIPs and winners.

#### **INFORMATION LITERACY**

# LEARNING MALAYSIAN HISTORY AT PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION



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erdana Leadership Foundation organised three Information **Literacy Programmes** throughout 2018. The first brought together eight premier schools from all over Malaysia to conduct research on specific aspects of Malaysian history. The school teams then had to present their findings, with prizes awarded to the best research and presentation team. Suffice to say, it was an intense contest; one could almost see smoke rising from the students' heads! Sekolah Dato' Abdul Razak (SDAR) was crowned winner, and Muhd Hazim Aisyoul Khorni - also of SDAR was named best presenter.

The next Information Literacy event pitted five private schools from Klang Valley against each other. Sekolah Sri Cempaka Cheras won the Information Literacy category, and Wan Hajar Munirah bt Wan Zainuddin of Sekolah Sri Cempaka Cheras was judged best presenter.

The final session was also a Corporate Social Responsibility programme, with students from Asrama Anak-anak Yatim Damai Kuang, Selangor, and SMK Kerdau, Pahang. Unlike previous editions which only had secondary school participants, this InfoLit was also joined by primary school students. The younger ones were not spared the challenge - they competed in quizzes and also conducted research for presentation.

In the primary school category, the Best Presenter award went to Siti Tri Putri binti Abdullah from Asrama Anak-anak Yatim Damai Kuang, while the secondary school best presenter was Nur Diana Azwani Abdullah, a student of SMK Bukit Gading, who is under the care of Asrama Anak-anak Yatim Damai Kuang.

Hampers for the students were sponsored by One Caring Heart Malaysia, and other prizes included book vouchers from MPH Bookstores.

# SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATED IN PLF'S INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAMMES IN 2018

#### **INFO-LIT 23**

- Sekolah Dato Abdul Razak
- SMAP Kajang
- Sekolah Sri Bestari
- SMS Banting
- SMS Seri Puteri KL
- SMS Seri Puteri Cyberjaya
- SMS Alam Shah
- SMS Selangor

#### **INFO-LIT 24**

- Sekolah Sri Cempaka
- Sekolah Sri UCSI
- Sekolah Sri Bestari
- Sekolah Sri Utama
- Sekolah Sri Acmar

#### INFO-LIT 25

- SMK Kerdau, Pahang
- Asrama Anak-anak Yatim Damai Kuang





INFO LIT 25



#### JUDGES FOR INFO-LIT 2018

- Prof Dr Syed Noh Ahmad, lecturer
  Puan Fatimah Abu Bakar, professional trainer
  Puan Fatihah Ilyani Jamhari, lawyer
  Mr Johan Irwan Kamarozaman, professional trainer
  Mr Liew Peng Kwai, former headmaster
  Dr Aida Mokhtar, IIUM Lecturer



## THE MAP 2.0 STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING & TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP 26TH APRIL 2018

'Twas the day of the Great War. The four kingdoms of the Middle Ages; knights, elves, wizards, and assassins, fought fiercely against each other to pursue victory. For with victory, the triumphant kingdom will gain rule over the other kingdoms, as well as the whole ancient land.

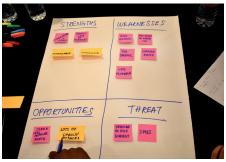
More than a thousand years later...

In the spirit of the Middle Ages, the Perdana Leadership Foundation organised its second Strategic Decision Making & Team Building Workshop with The Map 2.0, at the Perdana Leadership Foundation on the 26th April 2018 with participants coming from Sime Darby Plantations and the Ministry of Education Malaysia, among others.



As with the first programme, the objective of this game-based workshop was to challenge and improve participants' strategic decision making and team building skills. And so they were divided into 4 teams, each represented by a character from the Middle Ages with their own special abilities to help during gameplay.





The Map was facilitated by its creator, Mr James Leow from Priority Sky Sdn Bhd, who took on the role of Games Master. The game got progressively harder the more the participants advanced, and each group had to devise and revise their strategic plans while grappling with difficult decisions, limited resources, and vicious competitors; in short, real life business scenarios.





After more than two hours of intense gameplay, Team Wizard emerged victorious, having snuck past the other teams to roll the proverbial winning dice.

After lunch break, the participants discussed their strategies and identified what they did right, what they did wrong, and their turning points.



At the end of the workshop, the participants were given a tour of PLF, making their way to the lakeside and library. The few who decided to hang around after the workshop got a special bonus: the chance to meet and take photos with none other than the Foundation's Honorary President, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Note: Stay tuned to our Facebook page and sign up for our newsletter to be alerted to future workshops and seminars.

**WEBSITE CONTENT** 

# A RICH RESOURCE

ur website is home to various resources on Malaysia's past Prime Ministers and the events that occurred during their tenures. We don't just rely on secondary resources, as Perdana Leadership Foundation has

If you visit www.perdana.org.my you will be able to utilise the following resources:

published a range of books and produced podcasts based on events we have organised as well as Oral History sessions we have arranged with people who were key figures in the Malaysian government.

#### **Interactive Timelines**

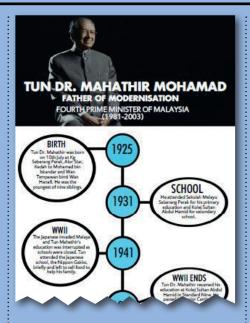
**Biographies:** The biographies of our Prime Ministers (from Tunku to Tun Abdullah) are presented in an interactive format, in addition to the brief articles on their lives. The interactive timeline allows you to select particular years, and also select which Prime Ministers' biographies you wish to display on the timeline.

**Journey to Independence:** Malaysia's road to Independence, from 1945 to 1963, is charted, with links to articles for further reading.

Malaysia Plans: All of the country's five-year development plans, from 1956 to the present, have been entered into the interactive timeline, including all economic policies and relevant events, that occurred during each period of the Malaysia Plan.

http://bit.ly/PM-timeline





#### Posters & Infographics

If you prefer something downloadable (and shareable), we have digital posters and chronological infographics of each of our Prime Ministers, as well as on our struggle for independence.

http://bit.ly/PLFbio-info



#### **Podcasts**

Need something more immediate? Head over to Perdana Podcasts where there are more than twenty episodes featuring the audio excerpts of not just YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, but also of other notable people such as Tan Sri Ambrin Buang, Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop, and Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz. Each podcast is only 10-15 minutes long, and focuses on specific issues.

http://bit.lv/perdana-podcasts



NOTABLE SPEECHES
Thursday, 25 August 2016
Perdana Leadership Foundation regularly organises

Read More



ORAL HISTORY PODCAST SERIES
Thursday, 30 June 2016
Since 2006, Perdana Leadership Foundation has conduct

Read More



TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD PODCAST SERIES "TUN TALKS" Monday, 30 November 2015 Perdana Leadership Foundation in collaboration with Universiti....



# PLF STAFF SHARE THEIR FAVOURITE BOOKS FROM OUR LIBRARY

When you work with books all day, everyday, you can be forgiven for taking books for granted. That's the state most staff members of Perdana Leadership Foundation found themselves in at the start of 2018. Despite being close to shelves of books, and being in close proximity to a leader who's an avid reader (none other than our Honorary President, of course), our library and communications staff felt they needed to be more attentive to the books they had easy access to. That's how the **Staff Pick Challenge** came about - each staff

had to pick one book - just one book that they read and either enjoyed or learned from. In the course of selecting their book, of course, the staff had to peruse the library shelves with the rapt attention of a scholar, and read several titles before settling on their choice book. Everyone's reading pile got higher and higher!

Here are their picks, dealing with a wide variety of subject matter, and in both Bahasa Malaysia and English. These books can be borrowed by

members of Perdana Library.

We have many more titles (around 11,000 more, to be exact) on the shelves of the Perdana Library, and more than 250,000 on our digital shelves. Members can borrow books and use our reading area for reading, writing, and other quiet work (or just to enjoy the view of the lake in our backyard). Contact Ms Magdalena (library@perdana.org.my / 03-88858968) if you want more information.

Title	Author	Recommended by
Tunku: Still the Greatest Malaysian	Arkib Negara Malaysia, various	Mohammad Faridzuan Abd Rahman
Robert Kennedy: His Life	Evan Thomas	Suriyana Mohd Noor
Malaysia – A Pictorial History 1400 – 2004	Wendy Khadijah Moore	Adnan Rizal Hj Haris@Harib
The Malays	Anthony Milner	Hasniza Hashim
My Name is Hasmah	Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali	Rabiatul Adilah Saad @ Omar
30 Rahsia Sukses	Datuk Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor	Noranis Mohd Yunus
Keep Your Brain Young: The Complete Guide to Physical and Emotional Health and Longevity	Guy McKhann & Marilyn Albert	Roymax Sebastian
Enhancing Personal Quality	Ranjit Singh Malhi & Robert W. Reasoner	Maizatul Kartini Kamaruldin
Cerita Kak Wan, Citra Pesona Seorang Wanita	Zahiruddin Zabidi	Nurul Humaira Kamarulzaman
The Struggle for Malaysian Independence	Dato' Sri J.J Raj (Author)	Magdalena Anak Lampas
Liberating the Malay Mind	M. Bakri Musa	Lina Nabilah Anuar
The Leadership Dilemma in Modern Democracy	Kenneth Patrick Ruscio	Siti Murshidah Mat Riffin

"Read in as many languages as you can understand.. it can be in Bahasa Malaysia, English or any other language. It helps to improve our grammar and the way we write and speak,"

**YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad** 



#### Malaysia — A Pictorial History 1400 — 2004

"Photographs of grand colonial mansions and smartly-dressed inhabitants compared to those of early Malayan houses and their poorly clad dwellers reveal the gap that existed between the rich and the poor, and between the different races. The need for a nation to gain independence is perhaps more easily portrayed in photographs than through the words."



#### The Leadership Dilemma in Modern Democracy

"Democracy is not sustainable if good politics is bad leadership – if, that is, the measures of political success are different from the measures of successful leadership. Those who demonstrate extraordinary leadership should reap the political rewards of reelection, endorsement by citizens and the steady accumulation of authority to act in the name of the public good."

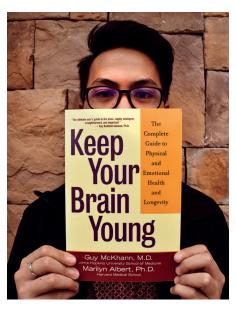


#### The Struggle for Malaysian Independence

"Another feather in the cap for this great thinker and planner is that Tun Abdul Razak had the education of young Malaysians at heart. To this end, it is of interest to note that British authorities built about 2,000 schools in 100 years, Tun Abdul Razak built 3,000 schools in 10 years.

Today the result of Tun Abdul Razak's vision is, the thousands upon thousands owing homes and with full bellies too. Many of the children from the New Villages and all over Malaysia are doing well in corporate and private sectors, and in the Political arena, such as Parliamentary Secretaries, Deputy Ministers and so on.

Tun Abdul Razak's legacies will live on through generation of Malaysians."



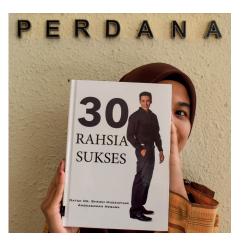
#### **Keep Your Brain Young**

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind and brain young."



#### The Malays

"Just who are 'the Malays'? This provocative study poses the question and considers how and why the answers have changed over time, and from one region to another. Anthony Milner develops a sustained argument about ethnicity and identity in an historical, 'Malay' context. The Malays is a comprehensive examination of the origins and development of Malay identity, ethnicity, and consciousness over the past five centuries."



#### **30 Rahsia Sukses**

"Motto saya sejak kecil iaitu 'what the mind believes the body can achieve' telah diajar oleh ayah kepada kami adik-beradik sejak kecil lagi. Ia membawa maksud sekiranya minda kata boleh, badan mampu melaksanakan misi tersebut walaupun dianggap mustahil."

#### **BOOKS FOR SALE AT PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**

Perdana Leadership Foundation publishes a range of books on leadership, history, and national issues. The books can be purchased directly from the Foundation by contacting Ms Magdalena Lampas (03-88858961/ magdalena@perdana.org.my). A selection of the books available are:



Perdana Leadership **Foundation Oral History Series: A** Conversation with Tan Sri Leo Moggie RM35.00



Jejak Seorang Pemimpin: Sejarah Lisan Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad Hardcover: RM50.00 Paperback: RM20.00

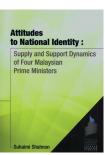


Jejak Seorang Pemimpin: Sejarah Lisan Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali Hardcover: RM50.00 Paperback: RM20.00

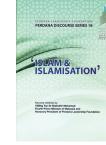


**Opinions And** lmaginings: A Compilation Of Winning Essays, Photos, And Fiction By Young Malaysians For The Maybank Foundation -Perdana Leadership Foundation Empowering Youth For A Better ASEAN' Writing & Photo Contest 2015

Hardcover: RM35.00 Paperback: RM25.00



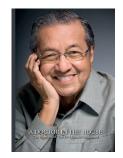
**Attitudes to National Identity: Supply and Support Dynamics** of Four Malaysian **Prime Ministers** RM25.00



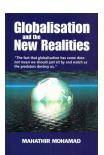
Perdana Discourse Series 19 "Islam & Islamisation"



#### **Books by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad**

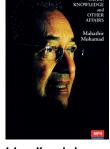


A Doctor In the **House: The Memoirs** of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

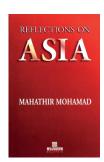


Globalisation & the New Realities (English) Hardcover: RM50.00

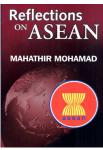
Paperback: RM30.00



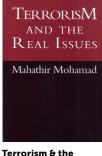
Islam, Knowledge and Other Affairs RM50.00



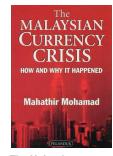
**Reflections on Asia** 



**Reflections on ASEAN** 



Real Issues RM20.00



The Malaysian **Currency Crisis PM10 00** 

#### EXCLUSIVE PERDANA MERCHANDISE



Perdana Discourse Series 20 "The Federal and The States: Federal State Relations in Malaysia'

\*\*\* Monographs of other Discourses are also available.



T-shirt (with collar) RM30.00



Cartoon t-shirt RM27.00



Umbrella RM15.00



Notepad RM8.00



Notebook RM12.00



Card holder RM15.00



**RM 10.00** 

#### **DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS**

#### DUR PUBLICATIONS GO DIGITAL

Have an e-book reader? Now you can purchase and download our Perdana Discourse Series monographs as well as other publications direct to your Kindle, Kobo, or even your mobile phone. Ten of our publictions are in electronic format, with more being published. Please visit www.plfpublications.com to download in the format you prefer. The e-books are also available for direct purchase on Google Play, Amazon, Kobo, Smashwords, and Apple iBooks.

#### Bangsa Malaysia

In this monograph, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the fourth and seventh Prime Minister of Malaysia, speaks on the origins of the concept

of Bangsa Malaysia, and its definition. Also included in this volume are three papers on Bangsa Malaysia by

Malaysian academics Dr Ariffin Omar, Dr DS Ranjit Singh, and Dr K Nadaraja. For students of national identity, ethnic relations, Asian leadership, and Malaysian studies, this book is a rich reference, offering multiple perspectives, historical context, and research-based opinions.

•••••

RM20.00

#### The Role of **Education in National Development**

This slim volume features the keynote address of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the topic



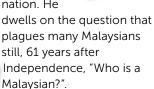
of education and how it is necessary for national progress. Tun briefly explains how education evolved into the formal system we know today, and how a focus only on academic achievements has produced bright graduates lacking in moral compass.

RM5.00

#### Social Reengineering

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad speaks on the topic of "re-engineering" Malaysian society to minimise

interethnic distrust and fear, so that Malaysia would become a truly united Malaysian nation. He



RM5.00

#### "National Sovereignty"

eISBN 978-967-0821-19-1

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad dissects the meaning of national sovereignty in relation to Malaysia and how



it weighs on policy decisions. This publication is essential reading to students and researchers of Malaysian history, leadership, and politics.

RM15.00

#### "Political Stability and Sustainability"

eISBN 978-967-0821-08-5

What were the policies that have enabled Malaysia

to achieve political stability? Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad explains how multiethnic Malaysia achieved political

stability through affirmative action. This 80-page monograph is a useful reference and introduction to Malaysia's ethnic-based affirmative action policies.

#### "Media and **National** Development"

eISBN 978-967-0821-16-0

The relationship between the media and government, and its influence on democracy and national development are nonseparable.



RM15.00



RM15.00

#### **BOOK EXCERPT**

# AN EXCERPT FROM A CONVERSATION WITH TAN SRI RAFIDAH AZIZ

#### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

DURING YOUR TENURE AS THE MINISTER OF International Trade, Malaysia became the 20th largest trading nation in the world and the world's largest exporter of semiconductors. What was the role of MITI in helping to facilitate Malaysia's trade?

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz (TSR) | Market opening was one thing, removing trade barriers was another. But the most important factor is the competitiveness of our products and services. There is no point entering a market with a lousy, high-priced, and low- quality product. No one will buy our products! Even if the market is not duty-free, if we are cost competitive, that tax element should not really matter. You have to be competitive in the context of the market that you are operating in. Today, as you know, margins are becoming smaller. Therefore, efficiency of production, quality, and integrity of services and products are demanded by an increasing number of consumers. Consumers do not mind paying a higher price for products that are of good quality.

We also need to know how to reach out to the market. Let's just imagine that, for example, the American market is now open to the world due to a trade agreement. If you are just getting started planning for the production and supply of your products and services, whereas another firm in another country has already spent years preparing to enter the US market, what is the point? Everything, eventually, will have to be translated into sales. If you cannot translate a trade agreement to sales, it would be a waste of time. Thus, for MITI, it was also important for us to help the private sector become more competitive. We helped them with market intelligence and valuable market research information.

I believe we need to return to the function and servicing of the private sector now, and help them boost their competitiveness in the regional and global markets.

Q | There were a lot of rumours saying Malaysia sometimes lost trade negotiations because of our officials' incompetence.



**TSR** | I had experiences where officials from other ministries failed us, because they were not proficient in English, didn't attend the negotiations, or didn't understand what was going on. There was nobody manning the fort.

Sometimes we imposed tariffs in areas that didn't make sense. For example, we had tariffs against American products such as kumquats and herrings. When I questioned the Ministry of Agriculture officials about this, they said it was because herrings competed with our local fish and kumquats competed with our local fruits.

I don't even know what herrings look like, and I don't think Malaysians eat kumquats! So why did we put tariffs on kumquats and herrings? Kumquats are fruits that we don't even know about, let alone eat, so why were kumquats placed in the same class as our durians? When the United States Trade Representative (USTR) asked me about these tariffs, I was shocked as I could not comprehend the rationale.

I called the official at the Ministry of Agriculture and lectured him on why it's stupid to have tariffs on products like kumquats and herrings. I told him to bring the matter up to his Minister, or else I would raise it in the next Cabinet meeting. If Tun Mahathir knew about it, he would get upset as well, especially as it was a small matter that should be resolved outside of the Cabinet. Subsequently, the Minister abolished the tariffs.

(Tan Sri elaborates further in the book)

This book can be purchased in print at Perdana Leadership Foundation (contact plfcomms@perdana.org.my / 03-88858960) or MPH Bookstores nationwide, at the price of RM29.90. Need a digital version? Visit www.plfpublications.com where you can find this book as well as others. The price for the e-book is RM20 (US\$4.99).



#### PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

Perdana Leadership Foundation was established in 2003 with the aim of preserving, researching, and disseminating materials by and on Malaysia's past Prime Ministers. Believing that past leadership can yield valuable insights for future development, the Foundation's objective is to increase awareness and appreciation of Malaysia's intellectual heritage.

The Foundation's physical home in Precinct 8, Putrajaya, was completed in October 2003. The stately building now houses the Perdana Library, an auditorium as well as a multi-purpose hall in addition to the office of the Foundation's Honorary President who is the country's fourth and seventh Prime Minister, YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Foundation operates a physical and electronic library, the Perdana Library, which provides access to information on Malaysia's past prime ministers. The library collects, organises, preserves and disseminates materials by and about Malaysia's national leaders and events connected to them, and outlines the policies, strategies and initiatives they adopted.

The Foundation's objectives are:

- To research, document, disseminate and publicise the intellectual legacies of Malaysia's past prime ministers.
- To create awareness of the development process of the nation and draw lessons from the nation's history to enhance future development

To illuminate the contribution of Malaysia's past Prime Ministers in the social, economic and political development of the nation.

To be a resource centre of policies, strategies and initiatives that were adopted under Malaysia's various Prime Ministers which may be used and adapted as models for the development of other nations.

The Foundation also has a broader objective i.e. to promote global understanding by providing a channel for scholars and thinkers to undertake research and idea-sharing for lasting, peaceful resolutions.

#### UPCOMING PROGRAMME

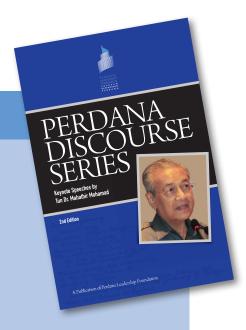
Our **CEO Forum 2019** will take place on the **4th of April** and promises another exciting line-up of corporate, industry, and government leaders discussing the pressing business and economic issues of the day. **YAB** 

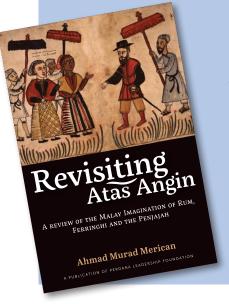


**Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad**, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, will deliver the Closing Keynote Address. So, don't miss out - check our Facebook page and website regularly, and sign up for our newsletter for further details and registration!

#### UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

The second edition of our Perdana Discourse Series Keynote Addresses by YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will hit the shelves in May 2019. The content of this edition has been further revised and includes a bonus keynote address by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.





We are pleased to publish the work of Professor Dato' Ahmad Murad Merican, conducted when he was our Honorary President Resident Fellow from 2009-2011. This publication, Revisiting Atas Angin: A Review of the Malay Imagination of Rum, Ferringhi, and the Penjajah, promises an edifying analysis of how Malays have always viewed "The West". With an extensive selection of excerpts from old Malay texts, this book will enrich our understanding of the cultural history of the Malays.



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