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Message from the Chairman **Tan Sri Azman Hashim**

Not many people are sad to say goodbye to 2020, and understandably so. It has been a year of fear, loss, and chaos, not just in Malaysia but around the world, mostly attributable to Covid-19. The loss of life has been dire - 2.4m deaths at the time I write this - and the loss of income for many more due to lockdowns has also been severe. In the midst of this, we have our success stories - Taiwan, Singapore, New Zealand, and Australia are prominent ones, and Malaysia featured too, but in the early phase of the pandemic. We thank the medical professionals and front-liners who continue to lead the fight against the virus.

The year 2020 is also the year when Malaysia was supposed to have attained a fully developed nation status in line with the nine tenets of Vision 2020, which was announced by our fourth and seventh Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in 1991. While we have advanced closer to our income goals (our GNI per capita was US\$11,200 in 2019 compared with US\$2,560 in 1991), we have our work cut out for us still on other fronts: equity, unity, political maturity, and education. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself shared his views about Vision 2020 when he talked to us for our Oral History session, the excerpt of which you can read within this issue.

The world has changed dramatically since 1991 and one of the areas that has gained much prominence is the environment and the need for us to halt the degradation of Mother Earth. With this in mind, PLF is very pleased to partner with Maybank Foundation again for the 2020 edition of our Writing and Photo Contest featuring this very theme: Climate Action. Thousands of young Malaysians wrote, and submitted photographs, on the environment, and we anxiously await the judges' conclusions due in February. Thank you to Maybank Foundation for its sponsorship, and our appreciation to all the young and enthusiastic entrants of the contest.

This issue also features an insightful article on leadership by Dato' Dr Vaseehar Hassan, a book excerpt by Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Hj Mohd Ali, along with short accounts of our other programmes.

This Foundation exists because a group of people from the private sector believe in the value of history for the benefit of present and future generations. History can also mean recent history and the year 2020 most certainly has much for us to learn from. We can only hope that we are entering 2021 armed with more humility, wisdom, clarity, maturity, and integrity.

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Cover Photo:

A random selection of Maybank Foundation - Perdana Leadership Foundation Contest 2020 photo entries. Please note they do not reflect the judges' selection.

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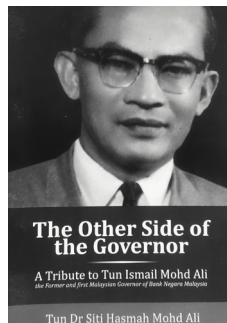
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An Excerpt from "The Other Side of the Governor" by Tun Siti Hasmah

A QUIETER YEAR AT PLF

Compared to the previous year, 2020 was a quieter year for the Perdana Leadership Foundation's Honorary President, YABhg Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. In our effort to prevent the spread of Covid-19, many of our usual programmes and events involving Tun Dr Mahathir had to be cancelled, including our flagship CEO Forum, annual Iftaar, and Perdana Discourse Series. The Honorary President, however, agreed to have a dialogue with our interviewers for this year's Oral History interview as well as an intimate business roundtable on Malaysia's economic recovery.

PLF's Oral History series on "Malaysia's Economic Development" took place on the 7th of October 2020 and while this wasn't the first time Tun Dr Mahathir had participated in such an interview, this latest one felt like its most important yet. Interviewers Dato Dr Vaseehar Hassan and Mr Eddin Khoo posed [questions on a range of current issues](#), including Vision 2020, ASEAN, and – of course – the impact of Covid-19.

Earlier in the year, during a closed-door **business roundtable** with representatives from various industries, Tun had also touched on the impact of the pandemic, the good and the bad. The Covid-19 virus, he had remarked, was an invisible enemy that even the most developed countries with the most advanced weaponry had not anticipated and could not defeat. The pandemic, therefore, necessitates a drastic reallocation of government funds towards public healthcare and the procurement of vaccines. He also noted that while it is unfortunate that many businesses and markets have suffered, such as travel and tourism, other areas have seen huge spikes in demand, such as internet services and home deliveries. Going forward, digitalisation of businesses and the marketplace is key to the recovery of not just the Malaysian economy, but also that of the global economy.



Tun with Tan Sri Nik Mohamed at the PLF Business Roundtable



Tun and Dato Vaseehar at the PLF Roundtable



Courtesy Call by HE Ary Norton de Murat Quintella, Ambassador of Brazil





Tun at the PLF Roundtable



Outside of PLF functions, YABhg Tun received a string of visitors, among them the Ambassadors and diplomats of various countries



Courtesy Call of HE Pascal H. Gregoire, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium



Courtesy Call by HE Muhammetnyaz Mashalov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan



Courtesy Call by HE Naiyl M. Latypov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation



Farewell Call by HE Ibete Fernandez Hernandez, Cuban Ambassador to Malaysia



Members of the South Yemeni Community in Malaysia visiting PLF



Staff from Kolej Profesional MARA, Ayer Molek, Melaka at the briefing session



Our librarian explaining our book collection to visitors

OUR VISITORS IN 2020



One for the album! Students from Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia in our main lobby



Visitors from Jejak Tarbiah (JT) Books at the Perdana Library

The year 2020 marked the first time in many years that Perdana Leadership Foundation welcomed fewer than 1,000 annual visitors to its premises. The visitors who stepped foot at PLF last year were able to do so before and in between the various Movement Control Orders instituted by the government to control the Covid-19 pandemic. We thank the visitors who came, and hope they learnt a bit more about us, what we are about, and how they can benefit from our extensive [digital collections](#).

The Foundation will remain closed to the public until further notice, in compliance with the guidance of the government. Please visit our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) regularly for information on our re-opening. You may also contact the Library (e-mail: library@perdana.org.my / 88858940 (En Adnan)) to find out more. In the meantime, please observe all health SOPs and stay safe.

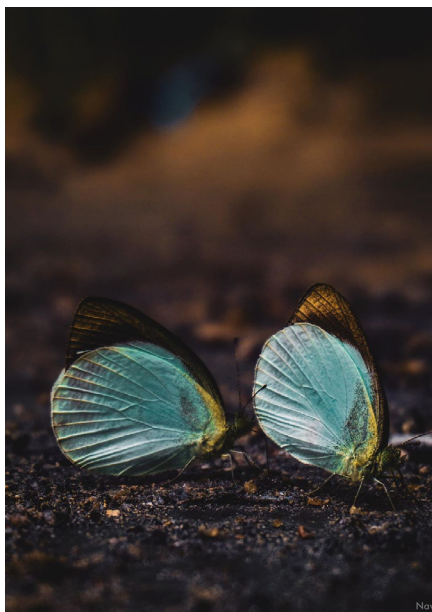


Photo by Naviin a/l Veeramuthu, @_naviinclicks_



Photo by Norfazliyana Binti Nordin, @am.anna_

SAVING THE PLANET, ONE WORD AND PHOTO AT A TIME

Launching a writing and photo contest during a lockdown may not seem like such a hot idea but both Maybank Foundation (MF) and Perdana Leadership Foundation (PLF) decided to bite the bullet and launched the **MF-PLF Writing & Photo Contest “Empowering Youth for a Better ASEAN”** – virtually - on 23rd April 2020. We are glad we did so because the response has been beyond our expectations! **More than 8,000 entries** were received from young Malaysians who had written fiction, essays, or submitted photographs for the judges’ consideration.

Given the environmental crisis this world faces, the theme for 2020 is a timely one: **“Climate Action”**, focusing especially on the role of youth in combating environmental degradation. We wanted critical responses to the issue as well as

creative ideas on what-if scenarios for the future, and the entries certainly contained these, in Bahasa Malaysia and English.

The shortlisting process is well under way at the time of this article, and our finalist judges will have plenty to occupy them in the search for the best entries. Our panel of judges for this edition consists of personalities such as Tunku Halim, Hanna Alkaf, Lydia Teh, Khairul Abdullah, Che Ahmad Azhar, Terrence Dass, Trisha Toh, Mahen Bala, and many more. The [full list of judges](#) and their bios are available on the contest website www.empoweringaseanyouth.com.

A huge thank you to the thousands of young Malaysians who, despite the challenges of 2020, took the time to reflect on, research, and articulate the very important issue of climate action.



Photo by Mohamad Ikmal bin Alimudin, @ikmal.alimudin



Photo by Irfan bin Sharkawi, @irfan3d

Note: The photos here are the editors’ selection and do not reflect the judges’ decision.



MEETING THE JUDGES!

November 2020: It was a privilege to finally meet our Finalist Judges for a tea and talk session on the contest, and it was enlightening to get to know their views on writing, photography, and the environment. With seasoned and award-winning writers **Lydia Teh**, **Hanna Alkaf**, **Khairul Abdullah**, and **Tina Isaacs**, as well as RTM presenter **Terrence Dass**, academician **Associate Prof Dr**

Salinah Jaafar, author and corporate trainer **Johan Irwan**, and pro photographer **Che Ahmad Azhar**, it felt like we were at an arts and culture awards gala!

Our judges got to know more about the contest evaluation process, and also got to know us: the organisers. They also generously gave their time and shared their views and tips on

the contest, the environment, and why young Malaysians should join the contest. The videos can be viewed [here](#) as well as on our [Youtube channel](#).

With a distinguished panel of judges, our contestants can be assured that each entry will be subject to rigorous scrutiny and any win will be well deserved.



SUNWAY AND PUTRAJAYA STUDENTS PIT THEIR RESEARCH AND PRESENTATION SKILLS AT PLF'S INFOLIT



Best Presenter, Ms Sreoshi Karim of SMK Bandar Sunway, in action



Students from SMK Putrajaya Precinct 9 (2), with their group facilitator, Puan Siti Murshidah



Students from SMK Bandar Sunway

What is it like to research a given topic within three hours using multiple resources?

The participants of our Information Literacy programme know the answer. In a one-day programme jointly organised by **Perdana Leadership Foundation** and **Sunway Group Bhd** that allows teams from different schools to showcase their intellectual grit, analytical skills, and articulation, 66 students from **SMK Bandar Sunway**, and **SMK Putrajaya Precinct 9 (2)** competed against each other to prepare a seven-minute presentation on subjects such as 13th May, Rukun Negara, the Formation of Malaysia, the Secession of Singapore, the Malayan Union, the New Economic Policy, and Merdeka. The 29th edition of the Information Literacy Programme was held at the Perdana Leadership Foundation on 29th February 2020.



All smiles at the group photo session!



Students hard at work



The team behind Info-Lit, led by Puan Suriyana Mohd Noor (2nd from right)



Mr Bernard Paul of Sunway Group, giving his speech on the importance of hard work and ambitions

Participants this time around had one of the judges, corporate trainer and author Mr Johan Irwan Kamarozan, share a few of his tips on effective presentation skills before the session began. Throughout the presentation, teams kept cool under the watchful eyes of their peers. A Q&A session with a distinguished panel of judges - **Mr Johan Irwan** (Director, LEAD Academy), lawyer **Puan Fatimah Jamhari**, and **Dr Aida Mokhtar** (Lecturer, IIUM) - followed after each respective presentation which measured the teams' ability to think swiftly and logically while under pressure.

At the end of the event, Team **"The Prince of Unity"**, from SMK Bandar Sunway, with their presentation on the Secession of Singapore, took home the first prize while **Ms. Sreoshi Karim** claimed the Best Presenter



Group 5 New Generation, presenting their findings on the topic of New Economic Policy

award. Ms. Sreoshi was from the group "The Great Malaysia", which won 2nd place for its presentation on 13th May. Third place went to "New Generation" which presented on the New Economic Policy.

Mr Bernard Paul, Sunway Group's General Manager of CSR & Events Group Brand Marketing & Communications, was on stage with **Puan Zarina Abu Bakar**, General Manager of PLF, and **Ms Suriyana Mohd Noor**, Programme Coordinator, to give away the prizes.



One of the winners for the Website Quiz category

Launched in 2008, the Perdana Leadership Foundation Information Literacy Programme aims to test students' knowledge of Malaysian History and their ability to conduct library-based research.

Our Information Literacy Programme is now on hold due to the pandemic but if you are interested to be placed on our contact list for future school-related projects, please contact Ms Suriyana Mohd Noor, at suriyana@perdana.org.my or library@perdana.org.my.

LEADING IN TIMES OF CRISIS



By Dato Dr Vaseehar Hassan

In Kets de Vries Institute (KDVI) of London where I am a senior associate, we have spent a large part of 2019 reflecting, researching, and discussing (virtually, of course) the future of leadership in the wake of Covid-19 which brought the activities of our institute almost to a standstill as most of our clients globally changed their focus from training and growth to survival. In this mini-article, I share some of the thoughts that I discussed with Mr Manfred Kets de Vries, the founder of KDVI, during the past year.

Since World War II, the world has not seen a crisis as monumental as Covid-19, nor as revealing. The pandemic has laid bare the hidden cracks in our economic and social systems as well as leadership at corporate and national levels. At this trying time when responsible leadership is needed, it is frightening to see how terribly some leaders behave.

At this trying time when responsible leadership is needed, it is frightening to see how terribly some leaders behave.

It is time to do away with the myth of the CEO as a hero. The leaders who naively portrayed themselves as omnipotent find themselves helpless in the stream of disruptions created by the pandemic. In such a complex situation it's critical for leaders to realise that they cannot be good at everything. Leadership should be regarded as a team sport and not a solo feat. When leaders realise the importance of team work, humility and trust, the two key traits for successful leadership, will bloom in organisations.

With humility also comes self-awareness and the need for self-reflection. Leaders need to humbly recognise their own strengths and weaknesses so they can build and empower a multi-talented team to fill the gaps of the leaders' weak areas. The humility that comes with self-awareness is also critical to fighting off the rise of autocratic leaders, the kind that lives in echo chambers of their own making. Leaders who indulge the tendency of people to tell their higher-ups what they want to hear will become self-destructive.

Leaders in a crisis should have the vision and courage to travel the unexplored path. Naturally, leaders will be confronted with numerous problems for which solutions may not be easily identified. A visionary and courageous leader will not allow the problem to become the captain.

Instead, the leader takes the helm, defeats the problem and the challenges that accompany it. This may require the leader to tread an unexplored path.

A classic example of how a leader could succeed in traveling through an uncharted path is how Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad implemented capital controls in Malaysia during the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997/98 to temporarily prevent outflow of funds in order to stabilise the economy. This unorthodox model was severely criticised by most financial experts, but the bitter pill served its purpose and helped to turn around the Malaysian economy in a much shorter period than other Asian countries.

Good leadership involves a delicate dance between disposition and position.

Although the pandemic is a tragedy and millions have died, it is also an opportunity for the world to rethink its future. The attitude of employees - particularly individuals in leadership positions - determines how an organisation will perform. As Kets de Vries says, good leadership involves a "delicate dance between disposition and position", that is the ability to resist the intoxicating effects of power. There always needs to be checks and balances. Above all, times of crises call out for self-aware and vulnerable leaders who can be merchants of hope.

Dato Dr Vaseehar Hassan, a retired banker, currently focuses on leadership development and executive coaching with two international organisations - Kets de Vries institute and INSEAD. Disenchanted with the spread of toxic leadership across the globe, he is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in psychoanalysis to better understand human behaviour.



On Vision 2020, Shared Prosperity,
and Full Economic Recovery:

A CONVERSATION WITH TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

EXCERPT:

On the 7th of October 2020, PLF had the privilege of a dialogue with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the 4th and 7th Prime Minister of Malaysia, as part of our Oral History Series “Malaysia’s Economic Development”. Interviewers Dato Dr Vaseehar Hassan and Mr Eddin Khoo posed questions on a range of current issues, including Vision 2020, ASEAN, and – of course – the impact of Covid-19.

Tun’s responses were, as always, insightful, drawn as they were from his decades of experience as MP, Minister, and Prime Minister. We publish below excerpts of this valuable session with a Malaysian leader with extensive experience of the intricacies of politics and policy-making, who has led the country through domestic crises, and spoke out on international issues.

The full transcript of the Oral History series will be published by Perdana Leadership Foundation. For the audio excerpts of our past conversations with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, “Tun Talks”, [visit this page](#). For a full biography of Malaysia’s fourth (and longest-serving) and seventh Prime Minister, head over [to this page](#).

Dato’ Dr Vaseehar Hassan

We are now three-quarters of the way in 2020. As the architect of Vision 2020, how would you rate the achievements of Malaysia against the nine benchmarks of 2020?

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

It is quite disappointing. We were moving towards achieving Vision 2020. Unfortunately, after I stepped down (in 2003), the direction of the country changed. Because of that, the focus was not on achieving the nine items that we had listed but on other things, and as a result, we did not achieve very much. We were not even successful in terms of creating the Malaysian nationality (or identity). We are still talking a lot about race, the differences between the races, instead of about being Malaysian. There were some well-meaning people who wanted to push for the goals of Vision 2020, but nothing was achieved. In fact, in many instances, they deteriorated and became worse. The government became less concerned about development and more concerned about personalities, positions, and things like that. Corruption has worsened to an unacceptable level. We have now come to a stage where corruption is so pervasive that the government can be bought, and brought down, through corruption. The people may elect a government, but that government can be changed through corruption.



Q: Of the nine benchmarks which comprise Wawasan 2020, what would you say is the most critical at this time for this time?

Integrity. We find that leaders now are not concerned about good governance. They are more concerned about what they get out of their posts. They become ministers because ministers get good pay, not because they can contribute. But nevertheless, they have gained positions where the return in terms of money is very good. So, we fail in that area.

Dato' Dr Vaseehar Hassan

If we disregard the year 2020, what would it take to put Vision 2020 achievements back on track?

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

We have replaced Vision 2020 with a new goal, to achieve equitable development for all races by the year 2030 which is 10 years from now. The objectives remain the same except that we focus more on the economic performance of the different races. In the end, we expect that when the economy grows and is equitably shared – fairly, not equally, shared – then this country would have taken the necessary steps towards achieving Vision 2020.

Mr Eddin Khoo

Tun, the second time around as Prime Minister, you introduced the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030. You said it was a continuation of Vision 2020, and also an attempt to “correct past mistakes”. Can you elaborate on what you mean by that? Incidentally, the present Prime Minister has said he will continue with the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030. I wonder if you have any thoughts on that.

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

When we introduced the New Economic Policy, it was a result of the riots in 1969. We discovered that the inequality of wealth between races was the main cause of the instability. To avoid further instability, we introduced the New Economic Policy, a programme of affirmative action in favour of the least developed race. We did that by coming up with preferences for the Malays and the Bumiputera. Unfortunately, they did not know how to use the opportunities given to them. They only saw the opportunity of making quick money. When they were given a licence to do something, they would sell the licence. When given a contract, they would sell the contract. This practice has got to be stopped. Under the new policy (SPV 2030), if you sell the licence or contract (awarded to you), that contract

becomes null and void. It's no longer a valid contract. This should stop them from trying to get easy money by selling off their contract. There are many other bad practices that we have identified. We had a new plan to ensure that the achievements would be, if not as targeted, then very close to it.

Mr Eddin Khoo

Tun, could I drag the conversation into something extremely urgent now which is the Covid pandemic. They call it a 'Great Leveller' in that it has levelled economies the world over. The Malaysian government has spent billions in aid trying to regenerate the Malaysian economy. How long do you think it will take for a full economic recovery to happen both in Malaysia and in the ASEAN region?

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

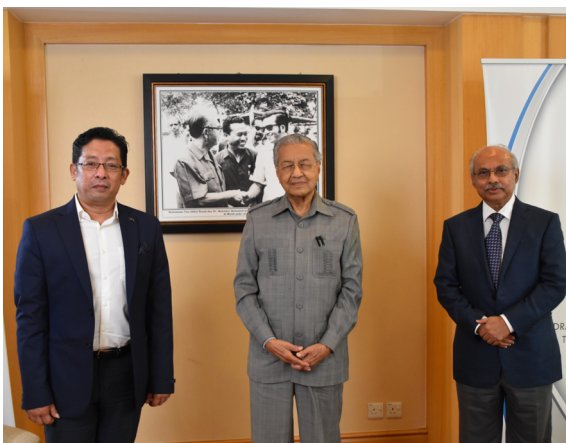
Full recovery may take five years or more. You know, this pandemic is unusual and unprecedented. We have never experienced this. It strikes at the most important area of our economy which is tour and travel. People cannot travel, cannot fly. The global tourism industry has been destroyed and it's not going to recover until

we have developed vaccines that can be administered to everyone.

Even if we find an effective vaccine, we would have to give the vaccine to over 4 billion people. This means that a huge amount of vaccine needs to be produced and there will invariably be people who would miss getting vaccinated. They may carry the virus when travelling and may infect other people who are not protected by the vaccine. So, the danger of infection is always there.

We cannot vaccinate everybody. These are the new norms we have to live under. We can no longer be in big crowds, or physically close to each other, because a member of the group may be carrying the virus.

Our economic system is changing. Today, you don't meet people, you communicate with them over the internet. You buy, advertise, and sell over the internet. This minimises the middlemen. We have to develop in different ways, instead of relying on the old system which is not as safe as it used to be. The way of doing business will change for the whole world.



Tun Dr Mahathir flanked by Mr Eddin Khoo and Dato' Dr Vaseehar Hassan



From left to right: Tan Sri Nik Mohamed, Mr Eddin Khoo, Puan Zarina Abu Bakar, Ms Novelyn Patac, Dato' Vaseehar

Vision 2020 has been described as a clearly articulated, bold, and audacious thirty-year goal for the nation. First articulated by our fourth Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the vision laid out **nine challenges for the nation**.

The nine challenges of the vision are as follows:

Challenge 1: Establishing a united Malaysian nation made up of one Bangsa Malaysia.

Challenge 2: Creating a psychologically liberated, secure and developed Malaysian society.

Challenge 3: Fostering and developing a mature democratic society.

Challenge 4: Establishing a fully moral and ethical society.

Challenge 5: Establishing a matured liberal and tolerant society.

Challenge 6: Establishing a scientific and progressive society.

Challenge 7: Establishing a fully caring society.

Challenge 8: Ensuring an economically just society, in which there is a fair and equitable distribution of the wealth of the nation.

Challenge 9: Establishing a prosperous society with an economy that is fully competitive, dynamic, robust, and resilient.

(Excerpted from 'Malaysia - The Way Forward', the full speech that introduced Vision 2020)

REVISITING VISION 2020: LESSONS AND RESOURCES

The year 2020 has come and gone and while in the economic sense, **our nation has progressed**, Malaysia still falls short on the qualitative and distributive aspects of the vision.

What lessons can be derived from Vision 2020? Here are a few current articles that reflect on the Vision that may offer some insights.

2020 — a national milestone amid an economic crisis

by Dr Nungsari Radhi

“(Vision 2020) was never just about the level of per capita income. It was a comprehensive envisioning of what a mature, developed society should be, from societal norms to equitable economic outcomes.”

Lessons we can learn from Vision 2020

by Dr Khor Swee Kheng

“Two things remain timeless, however. One, Malaysians needed a uniting vision then, and we need one now. Two, all Malaysians have a duty to contribute to that vision.”

Malaysia's Vision 2020 report card holds lessons for small nations

by Tan Sri Dr Andrew Sheng (Paywall restricted)

“Was this breathtaking vision possible? In my opinion, definitely. How much of it has Malaysia achieved? It depends on whom you talk to... Like most emerging markets, Malaysia faces challenges in how to position itself in a world fraught with geopolitical tension.”

Vision 2020 betrayed: Whither Malaysia?

By KS Jomo

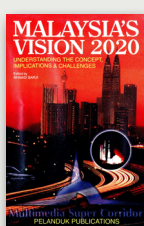
“Yet, there is still potential in Vision 2020's promise of a modern, industrialised, developed and united Malaysian nation. Despite responding to ethno-populism in Malaysia, Vision 2020, like its predecessors, also has the potential of transcending it.”

What are your views on Vision 2020? Leave a comment and get a list of books and resources on the vision at the **extended version** of this article.

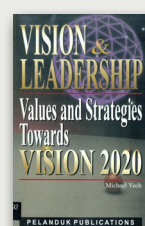
If you would like to read up on Vision 2020 from various perspectives, the Perdana Library recommends the following titles:



Vision 2020
by Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad



Malaysia's Vision 2020: Understanding The Concept, Implications & Challenges
by Ahmad Sarji



Vision & Leadership Value and Strategies Towards Vision 2020
by Michael Yeoh

DID YOU KNOW?

A selection of facts and anecdotes about our past Prime Ministers.



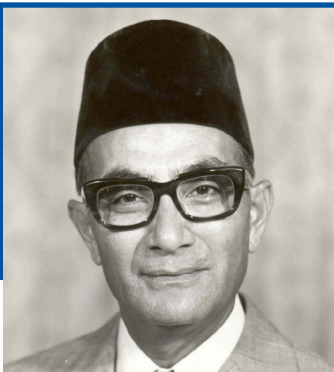
Tunku Abdul Rahman (1903-1990)

1. When Tunku was born, Kedah was still under Siamese sovereignty, with the state making tributes of 'Bunga Mas' (gold flowers) to the Siamese royal family.
2. His mother and many of his siblings nicknamed him "Awang", a name usually given to boys with tanned skin who worked in the paddy fields under the sun, while his father called him "Putra".
3. The Merdeka Agreement was signed by Tunku and Lennox-Boyd, the British Secretary of State for the Colonies, on Tunku's fifty-third birthday, 8th February, 1956.
4. Tunku was the one who proposed "Terang Bulan", the former state anthem of Perak in the late 19th century, to be adapted to become the National Anthem of Malaya, "Negaraku".
5. He was instrumental in the setting up of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and was its first Secretary-General.



Tun Abdul Razak (1922-1976)

1. Even though he was from an aristocratic background, Tun Razak chose to walk barefoot to school because he did not want to feel alienated from the rest of his friends who were unable to buy shoes.
2. Tun Abdul Razak was selected by the Pahang Resident to attend Malay College Kuala Kangsar where his leadership skills were honed. It was there that he learned to speak in English.
3. While he was in office, Tun Razak ordered the construction of more than 3,000 schools and enabled more than three million illiterate adults to read and write through special classes in rural areas.
4. Tun Razak had a personal quirk. He was known as having the "3Bs": bush jacket, *bertongkat* (he used to carry a walking stick) and "*berdehem*" (the sound he made when clearing his throat, enough to send chills down the spines of subordinates).
5. Tun Razak was an avid gardener who grew vegetables and reared fowls as a form of relaxation.



Tun Hussein Onn (1922-1990)

1. Tun Hussein Onn was sent to the renowned Military Academy of India in Dehradun in 1940 for military training with Tan Sri Ibrahim Ismail and Brigadier Ungku Ahmad as his classmates. He said this of the Academy: ***"It not only taught me military science, but what is more important, it had taught me the art and quality of leadership, loyalty to one's country and responsibility for the welfare and well-being of those who had given their trust in you."***
2. During the Emergency of 1948, Tun Hussein formed and trained almost one thousand civilians in Johor to become "Village Guards", the first volunteer security organisation, to defend and fight against the Communists.

3. Tun Hussein was an avid reader and used to spend hours in bookstores – his favourite subjects were politics and war.
4. As Prime Minister, Tun Hussein insisted that no politician or any of his relatives should be awarded any land. When he was offered a beachfront land in Port Dickson, he declined.
5. Tun Hussein was famous for his red pen and six-inch ruler with which he would underline major points in the documents he perused.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (b.1925)

1. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was born on July 10th, 1925, but his “official” birthday is Dec 20th, 1925. ***“My real birthday is 10 July 1925, but my father registered all his male children as born in December. Since the Malayan school year began in January, this avoided any hassles to do with age when registering for entry. This is why my registered birth date is 20 December making me slightly younger than my real age.”*** (A Doctor in the House)
2. During his college years, he wrote articles on issues affecting the Malays for The Sunday Times (now known as The Straits Times) under his pen name, C.H.E Det (Det was his family nickname).
3. Tun Dr Mahathir was known for always keeping a little notebook with him when he was Prime Minister in which he would jot down ideas, action items, and observations. Putting things down on paper, he said, is a good way to remind yourself of what you need to do.
4. Tun Dr Mahathir met Tun Dr Siti Hasmah at King Edward VII College of Medicine in Singapore, where they were both studying to be doctors.
5. He was among the first few world leaders to own a blog. He established his blog <https://chedet.cc/>, back in 2008 and still keeps it updated on a regular basis.



Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (b.1939)

1. Tun Abdullah's paternal grandfather, Tuan Guru Haji Abdullah bin Haji Ibrahim Ahmad bin Haji Abdullah, otherwise known as Abdullah Fahim, was the first mufti of Penang after independence.
2. A poem he wrote, ***‘I Seek Eternal Peace’*** was published as a book and translated into more than 80 languages.
3. Tun Abdullah met his first wife, the late Tun Endon Mahmood, while she was working at the Federal Establishment Office (now the Public Service Department) in the 1960s.
4. Tun Abdullah is unofficially known in Malaysia as Pak Lah. His favourite number is 13 and his favourite meal is ‘Kacang Pool’, minced beef or lamb cooked with peas or beans infused with spices with a distinct Middle Eastern flavour.
5. As Prime Minister, Pak Lah wanted to revolutionise and modernise Malaysia's agricultural sector, and implemented many initiatives towards this goal. One of them has now become the country's leading agricultural expo, Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism (MAHA), which was first organised in 2006.



Tunku Abdul Rahman

Remembered as the “Father of Independence”, Malaysia’s first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, had recognised the vital importance of fostering cooperation among Malaysia’s various ethnic groups as a way to overcome political challenges. Click [here](#) for more on Tunku.

“I believe in allowing the people to have their ways so long as they observe the law and order of the country. I believe in allowing them to run their own life and to enjoy the fruits of their labours; let them wear what they want, let them do what they want to do, go where they want to go. I do not think it is right to order their way of life.”

Tunku Abdul Rahman at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur, 28th August 1957.



Tun Abdul Razak

Tun Abdul Razak, the 2nd Prime Minister of Malaysia, was known for his tireless efforts to improve the economy of Malaysia’s rural areas by modernising farming methods and introducing adult literacy classes in villages. Tun Razak introduced the New Economic Policy in 1971. Click [here](#) for more on Tun Razak.

“Economic democracy means the good things in life must be made available to more and more people and gross inequality and imbalances between the rural and urban people should be removed.”

Tun Abdul Razak at the launch of the 2nd Phase of the Rural Development Programme, 4th September 1961.



Tun Hussein Onn

Tun Hussein Onn received his early education in Singapore, and the English College in Johor Bahru. After leaving school, he joined the Johor Military Forces as a cadet in 1940 and was sent a year later to the Indian Military Academy in Dehra Dun, India. As Prime Minister, Tun Hussein Onn pursued policies aimed at rectifying economic imbalances among the races. Click [here](#) for more on Tun Hussein.

“Our successes have been founded on moderation. In a multi-racial country, moderation requires strong discipline. It demands sacrifices by all communities in the overall interests of the nation. It requires us to seek solutions which are acceptable to all communities rather than to any particular community.”

Tun Hussein Onn at the official opening of the MCA Annual Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, 8th September 1979.

SELECTED QUOTES FROM MALAYSIA’S PAST PRIME MINISTERS



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

As fourth Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad led the country through a fast-paced modernisation drive that earned Malaysia international recognition as an industrial powerhouse. He introduced “Bersih, Cekap, dan Amanah” to improve transparency in the civil service and launched the “Look East Policy” to encourage more trade and collaborations with Asian countries. Under his leadership, several mega-infrastructure projects took place, notably the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC). Tun Dr Mahathir became Prime Minister for the second time in 2018. Click [here](#) for more on Tun Mahathir.

“One of the reasons for the Look East Policy is to learn the management methods of the successful countries of the East. But it would be shortsighted to disregard the West. There are positive aspects in the West and the East, and Malaysia wishes to combine the two.”

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the 4th Asia-Pacific Management Consultants Conference, Kuala Lumpur, 28th August 1995.



Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi

Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the fifth Prime Minister of Malaysia, introduced the National Integrity Plan, a master plan to cultivate Malaysians to become an ethical society; set up the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to combat graft, and established PEMUDAH (Pasukan Petugas Khas Pemudahcara Perniagaan) to reduce bureaucracy in business-government dealings. Click [here](#) for more on Tun Abdullah.

“The philosophy underlying Malaysia’s development is that growth is not to be pursued as an end in itself. Economic growth alone cannot guarantee national unity and social harmony, which are the most important tenets for a plural society like Malaysia. In our multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society, it is crucial for national unity to be the overriding objective and the goal of national development.”

Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the official launch of “Malaysia: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals; Successes and Challenges”, Kuala Lumpur, 28 January 2005.

ARTEFACTS & ARTWORKS AT PLF

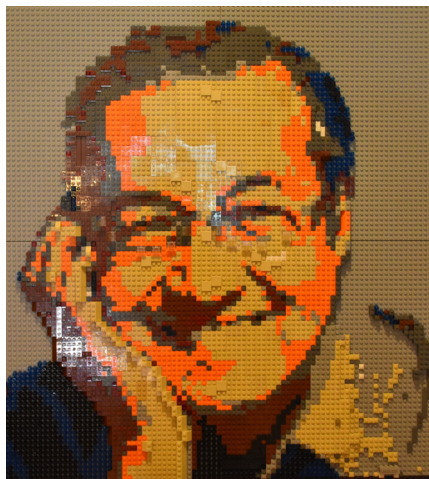
Have you ever wondered what is on display at the Perdana Leadership Foundation? While our gallery is small, it contains a number of unique artefacts and paintings, including replicas of historical documents related to past PMs of Malaysia. Most of the artefacts were gifted to our Honorary President YABhg Tun Dr

Mahathir Mohamad after he stepped down as Prime Minister in 2003. We have selected a few items from the collection for your viewing pleasure, from miniature horses, to a replica of the Divine Bell of King Songdak; from a chess set made of gemstones to a portrait of Tun Dr Mohamad made from Lego.

A replica of The Divine Bell of King Songdak the Great. Gifted by Datuk Lee Jin Bok.



A portrait of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad made from LEGO. Courtesy of Legolads Malaysia.



A specially commissioned sculpture made of jati and steel, symbolising the continuity of policies in Malaysia, the leadership of Malaysian Prime Ministers, and the unity of the nation. The sculpture was unveiled during the launch of Perdana Leadership Foundation on the 10th of May 2005.

Family members of the former Prime Ministers of Malaysia at a gathering at the Perdana Leadership Foundation, 25th March 2005.



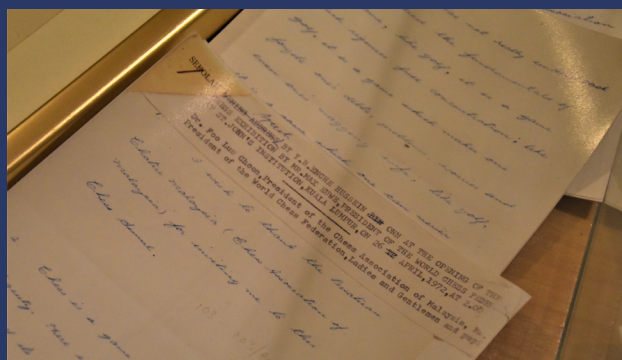
Tunku Abdul Rahman (front row, middle) with his college buddies at St. Catherine's College of Cambridge University, England.



The nine Rulers' Royal Seals, depicted in this collage to commemorate the Sultans' signing of the Declaration of Independence of Malaya, 5th August 1957.



A replica of Tun Abdul Razak's international passport.



A sample of Tun Hussein's handwriting. It was known that he was a meticulous man who wrote with a pen and ruler.



A collection of graduation robes received by Tun Dr Mahathir for his honorary doctorates.

Details from left to right:

1. Honorary Doctorate of Science, UPM.
2. Honorary Doctorate of Leadership & Education Development, UPSI.
3. Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy (Technology Management), UTHM.
4. Honorary Doctorate of Economics, UMS.
5. Honorary Doctorate of Development Studies, UNIMAS.



A chess set made of gemstones, gifted by Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP).





THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GOVERNOR - A TRIBUTE TO TUN ISMAIL MOHD ALI,

The Former and First Malaysian Governor of Bank Negara Malaysia, by Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Haji Mohd Ali

Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Hj Mohd Ali, the wife of our fourth and seventh Prime Minister, is a lady of many talents. A medical doctor by education and training, she plays the violin and piano, and writes. She writes longhand in her journal and has penned a well-received memoir, *My Name is Hasmah*. She has also written a series of booklets dedicated to her siblings. One of them is the late Tun Ismail Mohd Ali, the former – and first – Malaysian governor of Bank Negara Malaysia. Here is an excerpt from the touching and heartfelt tribute to one of the people instrumental in establishing the foundations of the country's central bank after independence.

Part Three: The Governor

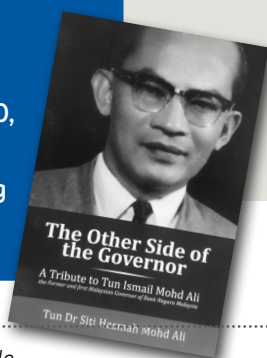
"When Abang Ngah finally returned to Malaya in 1960, he was appointed Deputy Governor of Bank Negara and two years later, took over the position of Governor from his predecessor, Tan Sri William Howard Wilcock.

By that time, I was already married to Mahathir Mohamad and was working as a medical officer in Kedah. Abang Ngah seldom visited me there, probably because he was busy with his work, but he found time to express his approval when I later chose to continue working at government hospitals. When Mahathir became the Minister of Education, I followed him back to Kuala Lumpur and worked at the institute for Public health located on Jalan Bangsar. Initially, we rented a house in Petaling Jaya. A few years later, we decided to build a house of our own.

I rarely visited Abang Ngah at his office in Bank Negara, but I received a phone call out of the blue from him one day. "*Hasmah, I want to see you in my office.*" He didn't say what it was about. I was still driving my own car at the time, so I headed to Bank Negara from my workplace. When I arrived, his secretary took me to his office to wait for him. After some time he came in, and I stood up to greet him but before I could even sit back down, he asked me, "*Hasmah, where did Mahathir get the money to build the house?*" I was stunned, but I kept my cool. I patiently explained to him that we had sold our house in Alor Setar, and now that Mahathir was in the Government, he could get a loan from the Government for the new house. Satisfied by my explanation, he simply muttered, "*Mmm.*"

In retrospect, Abang Ngah was just being extra cautious. He was aware of his position and the responsibilities it entailed, and he wanted to be certain that there was no underhand business going on behind his back, especially within his circle of friends and family. In fact, my brother was so unrelenting when it came to preserving Bank Negara Malaysia's integrity that he actually limited his friendships to the banking fraternity, colleagues and those already working for the government. It's no wonder that he was often alone. He sometimes played golf by himself. Abang Ngah had few friends not by choice but by circumstance."

Tun Ismail helmed BNM from 1962-1980, making him its longest-serving governor.



This booklet is available for reading at the Perdana Library.

STAFF PICKS 2020

Another year, another set of books chosen by staff members of Perdana Leadership Foundation, highlighting the diverse choices of books available here at the Perdana Library. This year our topic includes personal biography, historical fiction, historical research, comedy, women leaders, personal motivation, and many more.

One of the Staff Picks was about **Hang Tuah**, a choice made solely because of childhood nostalgia, and a little bit of curiosity. Is he a real-life historical figure, or an exaggerated legend? Read the book to find out for sure. Another interesting read was **'Bolehland'**. The author, a Japanese man, recounts his experience living and working in Malaysia. He noted many hilarious quirks of Malaysians, such as calling an older person auntie or uncle even

though there is no blood relation. Safe to say, his recounts of his Malaysian experience is eye-opening, and could help us laugh at ourselves.

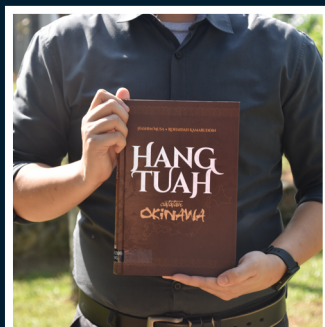
If you are in the mood for something a bit more critical, then perhaps **'Dialog 50 Tahun Merdeka - Melayu Retak Seribu'** is the book for you. The author reflected on the nation's 50 years of independence (at the time of writing), and how he has witnessed the gradual decline of 'Malay greatness' over the 50 years.

Our Staff Picks are available at the Perdana Library. If you are interested in reading or borrowing the books, contact us 03-88858961 (Library Counter). Read the reviews at <https://www.perdana.org.my/blog/>



Bolehland by Masao Usui

RECOMMENDED BY:
Nurshahafiqah binti Asli



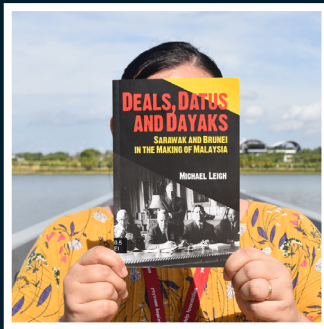
Hang Tuah: Catatan Okinawa by Hashim Musa,
Rohaidah Kamaruddin

RECOMMENDED BY:
Mohammad Faridzuan bin
Abd Rahman



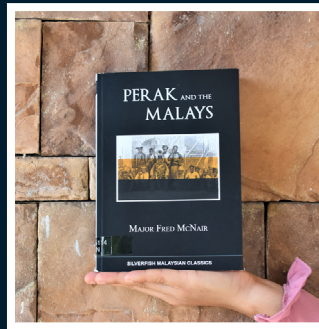
Dialog 50 Tahun Merdeka - Melayu Retak Seribu by Rahim Zain

RECOMMENDED BY:
Siti Murshidah binti Mat
Riffin



Deals, Datus And Dayaks: Sarawak And Brunei In the Making of Malaysia by Michael Leigh

RECOMMENDED BY:
Magdalena Lampas



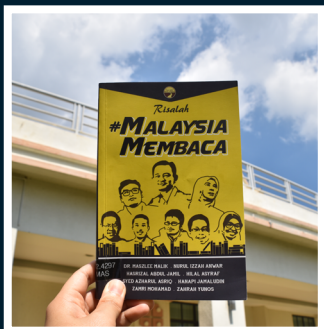
Perak & The Malays: Sarong and Kris by Major Fred. McNair

RECOMMENDED BY:
Lina Nabilah binti Anuar



Ulu Yam di Liverpool by Nazali Noor

RECOMMENDED BY:
Roymax Sebastian



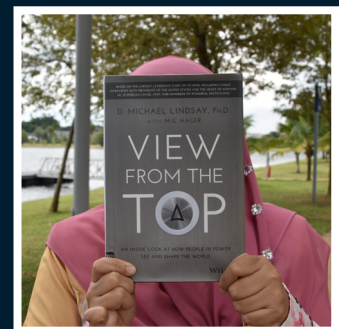
Risalah #MalaysiaMembaca by Various

RECOMMENDED BY:
Adnan Rizal bin Haris



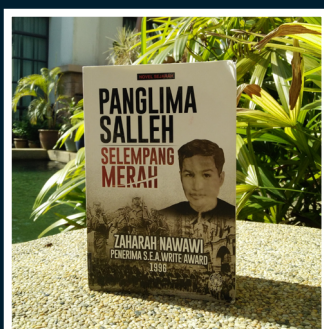
Her Voice - The Story of the Malaysian Woman by Vasanthi Ramachandran

RECOMMENDED BY:
Maizatul Kartini binti Kamaruldin



View from the Top: An Inside Look at How People in Power See & Shape the World by D. Michael Lindsay, M.G Hager

RECOMMENDED BY:
Nurul Humaira binti Kamarulzaman



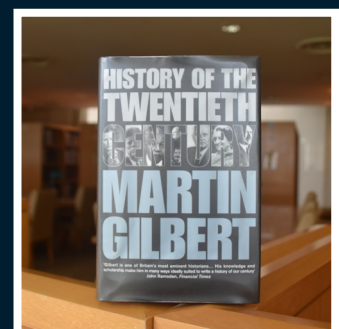
Panglima Salleh: Selempang Merah by Zaharah Nawawi

RECOMMENDED BY:
Suriyana binti Mohd Noor



Malaysia: 50 Fakta Asas Kenegaraan by Chamil Wariya

RECOMMENDED BY:
Hasniza binti Hashim



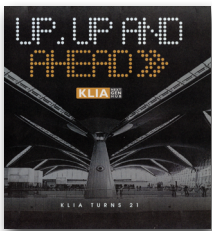
History of the Twentieth Century by Martin Gilbert

RECOMMENDED BY:
Puan Zarina binti Abu Bakar

PLF COFFEE TABLE BOOK COLLECTION

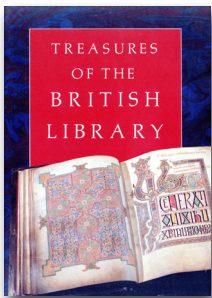
The best coffee table books - those oversized volumes that are often stacked in one's living room - are able to transport us through beautiful images and innovative layouts, whether it be to a different country, a new subject, or simply a fresh perspective.

Our Perdana Library has **more than 400** gorgeous coffee table books in its collection, many of them gifts to our Honorary President, YABhg Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. They cover a range of topics, from history to sports; from culture to technology. Here is just a sample of what is available at our Library.



Up, Up and Ahead: KLIA Turns 21

We know that travel especially air travel, is way, down the list of actionable items this year, but what better way to temporarily satisfy one's wanderlust than to read up about the nation's gateway to the world, the KL International Airport (KLIA)? This book details the airport's history since 1998, its modern architecture infused with traditional elements, and its operational innovations, accompanied by arresting photos of the airport.



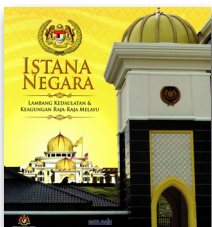
Treasures of the British Library

In this highly-illustrated account, Nicolas Barker reveals the history of the British Library's treasure house of books and manuscripts, an outstanding chronicle of one of the world's great treasure houses. So vast are the British Library's collections and so splendidly are they presented here that this book would be an inspiring addition to any library. The library's 15 million items span almost 3,000 years of human creativity. Many of the world's greatest written works are there, including a Magna Carta, a Gutenberg Bible, a First Folio of Shakespeare, the Diamond Dutra, and the earliest version of Beowulf.



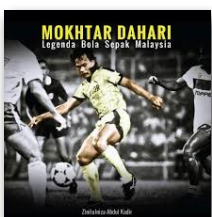
Malaysia, Walter's Second Home

Malaysia, Walter's Second Home, contains a pictorial account of the travels of Walter Francois, a former Belgian banker turned author, as he travels around the off-beaten paths of Malaysia to discover its people and its natural beauty.



Istana Negara: Lambang Kedaulatan & Keagungan Raja-Raja Melayu

This book is a lavish pictorial account of the new National Palace (Istana Negara) of Malaysia. The majestic building on Jalan Duta in Kuala Lumpur was constructed at the end of 2007 and completed at the end of September 2011. The Palace incorporates Islamic, French, and colonial architectural elements which the book elaborates. The book also highlights the history of the Malay Sultanate in Malaysia.

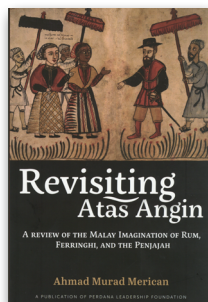


Mokhtar Dahari: Legenda Bola Sepak Malaysia

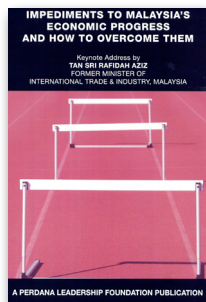
If you are an avid fan of Malaysian football, you would know of the football legend, Mokhtar Dahari or "Supermokh", who scored 85 goals for Malaysia in 138 international matches. This book is a chronological and pictorial account of the footballer's career until his death in 1991. The book also quotes the footballer from the various articles written about him, and presents the reader with exclusive photographs of the legend.

BOOKS AND MERCHANDISE @PLF

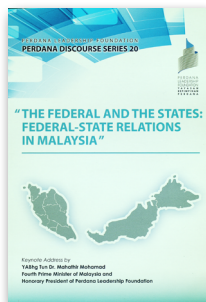
Perdana Leadership Foundation publishes and sells a range of books on leadership, history, and national issues. The books can be purchased directly from the foundation by contacting Ms Magdalena Lampas (03-8885 8961/ magdalena@perdana.org.my). A selection of the books available are:



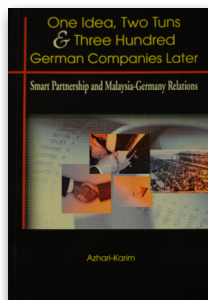
Revisiting Atas Angin:
A Review of The Malay Imagination of Rum, Ferringhi, And the Penjahah
RM55.00



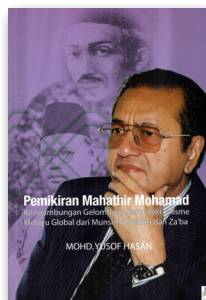
Perdana Discourse Series 21*
"Impediments to Malaysia's Economic Progress and How to Overcome Them"
RM20.00



Perdana Discourse Series 20*
"The Federal and The States: Federal State Relations in Malaysia"
RM15.00



One Idea, Two Tuns & Three Hundred German Companies Later: Smart Partnership and Malaysia-Germany Relations
RM25.00

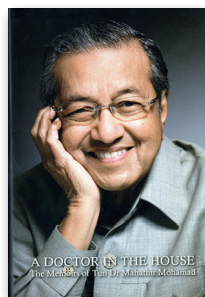


Pemikiran Mahathir Mohamad: Kesenambungan Gelombang Keintelektualisme Melayu Global dari Munshi Abdullah dan Za'ba
RM65.00

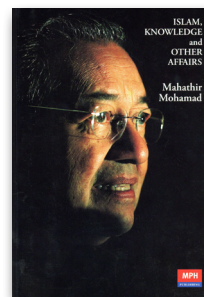


Pengisytiharan Malaysia Sebagai Negara Islam
RM35.00

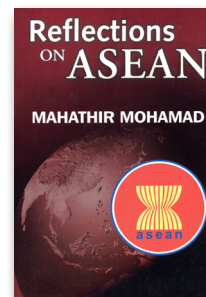
Books by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad:



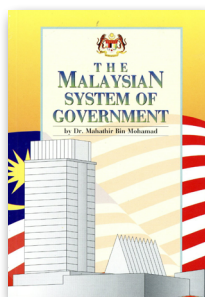
A Doctor in The House: The Memoirs of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad
RM100.00



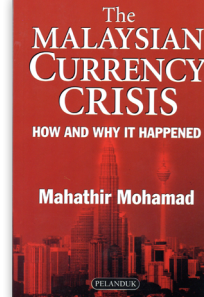
Islam, Knowledge and Other Affairs
RM50.00



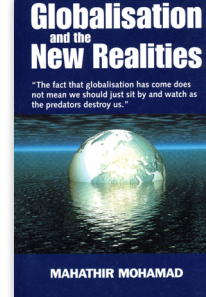
Reflections on ASEAN
RM33.00



The Malaysian System of Government
RM10.00



The Malaysian Currency Crisis
RM10.00



Globalisation & the New Realities (English)
RM55.00 Hard Book Cover
RM30.00 Paper Book Cover

* Monographs of other Discourses are also available.

PLF MERCHANDISE

Notepad (Big)	RM8.00
Notebook (Ring) HBK	RM12.00
Notebook (Ring) PBK	RM8.00
Cardholder	RM 15.00
Pendrive 16GB	RM45.00
Pen	RM3.00
T-Shirt	RM33.00





PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

www.perdana.org.my

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

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, YABhg 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, and preserves materials by and about Malaysia's national leaders and events connected to them, with particular emphasis on the policies, strategies and initiatives they adopted. The Library contains almost

12,000 physical titles and more than 150,000 digital documents, comprising speeches, policy papers, and articles.

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 contributions 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 which is to promote global understanding by providing a channel for scholars and thinkers to undertake research and idea-sharing for lasting, peaceful resolutions.



THANK YOU

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Ministry of Education, MERCY Malaysia, Perbadanan Perpustakaan Awam Selangor (PPAS)



BECOME OUR MEMBER

Membership to the Perdana Library is free

and members gain the following benefits: use of our Library facilities, including Wi-Fi, during opening hours (this is subject to Covid-19 movement restrictions); E-mail requests for specialised searches; early invitations and discounts to selected public events. Visit www.perdana.org.my or scan the QR code to become a member.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Prize Giving Ceremony MF- PLF Writing & Photo Contest

Date: March / April 2021

Venue: To be confirmed

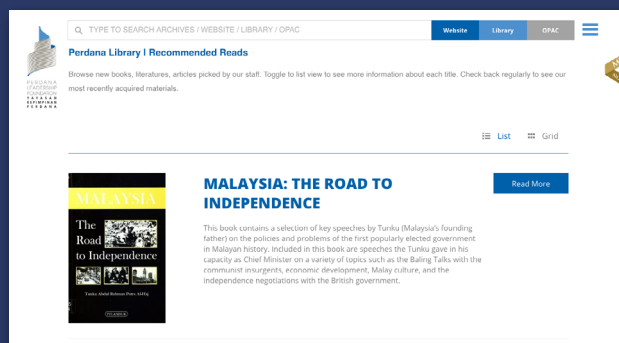
Workshop on Preserving Library Materials

Date: August / September 2021

Workshop on Library Congress Subject Heading (LCSH) Scheme for Libraries & Information Centres

Date: October / November 2021

We post information on upcoming events on our [Facebook page](#), so be sure to like our page and follow us!



A RICH ONLINE RESOURCE

There are plenty of resources on Malaysia's Prime Ministers on [our website](#), including an [interactive visual timeline](#), [infographics](#), and [podcasts](#). Our [Library's OPAC](#) is also available for you to search our vast repository.

