

Mahathir Mohamad

■ **1925:** Born in Alor Star, Kedah state. Excels academically before becoming medical doctor

■ **1946:** Joins **United Malays National Organisation (UMNO)** – party formed to seek independence from Britain

■ **1964:** Elected to Parliament

■ **1969:** Loses seat and is expelled from UMNO after criticising Malaysia's first prime minister, **Tunku Abdul Rahman**

■ **1970:** Mahathir's book **The Malay Dilemma** argues that ethnic Malays are being eclipsed economically by ethnic Chinese. He rejoins UMNO two years later

■ **1981:** Becomes Malaysia's fourth prime minister – oversees transformation of country from sleepy backwater to one of Asia's leading economies

■ **1998:** Economic crises strike. Mahathir sacks deputy **Anwar Ibrahim**, who is jailed in 1999 on charges of corruption and sodomy

■ **2003:** Angers many foreign governments by attacking Jews in major speech delivered just days before retirement



■ **2008:** Resigns from UMNO after allegations that Prime Minister **Najib Razak** is embroiled in multi-billion dollar financial scandal involving state development fund

■ **2016:** Starts new party, **Bersatu**, which joins **Pakatan Harapan** opposition alliance

■ **May 2018:** Aged 92, Mahathir becomes world's oldest elected leader after shock victory that ends ruling coalition's six-decade grip on power