

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Our deepest condolences to the families of passengers and crew of flight MH370

HOME NATION STREETS WORLD BUSINESS TIMES SPORTS LIFE & TIMES OPINION GALLERIES 7 DAY NEWS CHANNELS

COLUMNIST



24 February 2012 | last updated at 12:43AM

[Email](#) [Print](#)

Winnable candidates and will of the people

By Datuk Dr Ibrahim Ahmad Bajunid

comments

VOTING is the exercise of empowerment. In a true democracy, the vote is the inalienable right of every citizen to determine the kind of leaders and government he or she wants.

One vote can make a difference. The vote properly cast and counted can stop not only individual thieving but also institutionalised corruption.

Winnable candidates can be defined by political parties for ad hoc purposes of winning the elections. To the people, the wholesome winnable candidate is not just about the elections.

What the so-called winnable candidates do after the elections also matters. Legally, the winnable candidate will be with the people and their respective constituency for the full term of 1,825 days. In five years, leaders at any level can do much good or much damage.

Good leaders from any political party or any sector of human activities are hard to come by. Good leaders are not necessarily good through the life span but have to be constantly vigilant with self in order to be steadfast in integrity.

In any particular organisation or political party, leaders are expected to create conditions for the happiness, safety and security of the people.

What political parties set as winnable candidates may really not be winnable enough. There are other criteria and checklists.

Candidates who will be rejected in the long-run are those who are pompous and arrogant, who are hate-mongers with destructive personal or sub-group agendas.

The negative attributes that the people do not accept include the following: the exercise of power distance; flaunting of power and living beyond means; covert looting, cheating, and wastage of public funds; and fraudulent behaviour or incompetence.

OPINION

[Editorial](#)

[Columnist](#)

[Letters to the Editor](#)

[Comment](#)

STREETS



TREAT FOR FOOD CONNOISSEURS



Reaching out to the young

MOST READ

- Thomas Cup: Malaysia a step closer to semifinals
- 10-vehicle pile-up at KL-Karak Expressway crash
- Car prices to fall further
- Malaysia world's 12th most competitive nation
- Najib welcomes Japan's participation in KL-Spore high-speed rail link
- Malaysia, Japan to boost economic, defence ties
- Cargo manifest 'released on May 1'
- Woman found 10 years after kidnapping
- Khairy demands report on protest outside Penang assembly building
- Malaysia 12th most attractive to investors
- Tunku Bendahara of Kedah passes away at 75
- Badminton: Thomas Cup, Uber Cup results
- Najib visits Astana to enhance Malaysia-Kazakhstan ties
- Lin Dan against any change in points system
- Malaysia, a great market for luxury cars

[MORE](#)

Malaysia's Largest Secondhand Marketplace

DAPATKAN WANG TUNAI UNTUK TELEFON ANDA

Jual tanpa caj di Mudah.my!

JUAL SEKARANG

Source: Mudah.my database, 2014



The leader must not be manipulative but must genuinely respect the people. The nominated person must not be uncompromisingly self-righteous with unresolved issues of relationship with others and with self.

The nominated leaders should not be people who would commit injustices towards neighbours or towards those who are not like them. The elected person must not be a "toxic" leader and must not damage the people or the country. He/she should not evidence inclination towards committing crimes against humanity.

The nominated leader would be one who fosters rational thinking and refinement of emotions of the people. The leader does not indoctrinate and debase God-given faculties to humans.

When the leader is elected, the people are proud to be Malaysian. It must not be the case that there is overall disappointment when a particular person with no credibility and with planned mischief comes to power to do damage in subtle and blatant ways.

The leader must not have the inclination to be corrupt but must be an example of integrity.

Political manifestos come to nought when election promises are broken and not fulfilled. Leaders who lie to the people betray the people.

The nominated leader should have a level of practical and ethical awareness that he is answerable to his party in all matters.

However, in important and critical matters he must have clear awareness that he is answerable to the people and to God.

In critical matters, his conscience should move to decide. There has to be clear willingness to draw the line between the relationship with party, and the relationship with justice, nation and God. Justice for the individual citizen, the common good, and the security of the nation overrides the interests of lobbyists or parties.

Leaders are expected to be the voice of conscience among peers and to have the courage to stand alone against the odds of injustice when a final judgment call is required.

True leaders make sacrifices and are not easily enamoured by power or wealth or adoration and are willing to lose all these in matters of first principles of justice.

Good leaders would be willing to stand against the wrongdoers of their own political party. It has been aptly said by Edmund Burke that "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing".

A gift to the people is when individuals and political parties will win the elections honourably, or lose with honour and dignity as good losers.

NSTP FAMILY SITES

[Harian Metro](#)

[Berita Harian](#)

[Business Times](#)

[My Gadget Planet](#)

[Travelific](#)

[Harum](#)

[Eats](#)

[Properties](#)

[News Image Bank \(NIB\)](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

[New Economic Model](#)

[NST Reviews](#)

[NiEXUS](#)

[Friends of Travel Times](#)

[Property News](#)

[NSTLIVE Archive](#)

[Spell-It-Right](#)

COFFEE BREAK

[Sudoku](#)





Merlimau residents lining up to cast their ballots in a by-election last year. Voters will reject candidates who are pompous and arrogant.

< 1 / 1 >

Google +

RECOMMENDED

[MH370 Lost in Indian Ocean: Pilot and co-pilot's house deserted](#) (New Straits Times)

[Avoid going to KL today, public urged](#) (New Straits Times)

[Highest UAE award for Najib](#) (New Straits Times)

[RM5.5m hillside villas attract foreign interest](#) (New Straits Times)

[All ready to welcome FuWa and FengYi](#) (New Straits Times)

[MAS CEO resignation a personal decision](#) (New Straits Times)

FROM AROUND THE WEB

[Jalan Ipoh's Hot Eats](#) (HungryGoWhere)

[Garlic Fried Rice Recipe](#) (HungryGoWhere)

[How to Pack a Suitcase like a Flight Attendant](#) (Learnist)

[Two 34-Year-Old Aussies Are Latest Techies To Become Billionaires...](#) (Forbes)

[Why Harry Truman Decided to Drop the Atomic Bomb on Japan](#) (Learnist)

[Credit Cards in Malaysia - Types of Credit Cards](#) (iMoney)

Recommended by

Referred Academic Journal

 iiste.org

Fast Review, Publishing & Printing International Journal(US Published)

Leave Your Comment

 Login With Facebook

HOME	NATION	STREETS	WORLD	BUSINESS	SPORTS	LIFE & TIMES	OPINION	GALLERIES	7 DAY NEWS	CHANNELS
Top News	General	Central		TIMES	Soccer	Tech	Editorial	Image	Monday	Gadget
Latest	Politics	Northern			Badminton	Health	Columnist	Video	Tuesday	Eats
RSS Page	Extras	Johor			Cricket	Style	Letters To The Editor	Infographics	Wednesday	Travelific
Didik Malaysia					Racing	Travel			Thursday	Harum

[Other](#)

[Showbiz](#)

[Comment](#)

[Friday](#)

[Learning Curve](#)

[Live](#)

[Saturday](#)

[You](#)

[Sunday Life &](#)

[Sunday](#)

[Niexter](#)

[Times](#)

[Mobile](#) [News Archive](#) [1Klassifieds](#) [Property Auction](#) [Twitter](#) [RSS](#) [Personal Data Protection Notice](#) [Disclaimer](#)

Copyright © 2011 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad. All rights reserved.