

Total War Against Covid 19 (SARS-CoV-2)

In 2 Parts

By Matthias Chang – Future Fast-Forward

Part 2 (continuation)

Political Background

In blunt terms, the present geopolitical and domestic scenarios demand that the following measures should as far as possible be adopted, if Malaysia aspires to be the indispensable regional partner in world affairs and not torn apart by the barbarity of a civil war lasting over a decade, orchestrated by foreign powers for regime change as happened in Syria.

Fantasy?

Other than the key Arab / Muslim players (in sinister collusion with Western powers), no Muslim anticipated the horrors that were unleashed in Syria, the necessary collateral damage for regime change. Millions displaced and scattered as refugees across the Middle East and Europe, and hundreds of thousands slaughtered, raped and wasted. Therefore,

- Tun Mahathir (Tun) must not use the office of Chairman of Party Bersatu to hijack the party for his own agenda. If truth be told, the party was not founded by Tun alone but by a collective. **And it all started secretly, in the Perdana Leadership Foundation (PLF) 4 eyes meeting when the advice for the urgent need for a political party was given to overcome the arrogant nonsense of the opposition parties as they were not willing to accept Tun as the Supreme Leader, as he was then a “Commander without an army”. The Bunga Raya was strongly recommended as the emblem/logo for the new party because no arseholes would dare ridicule the National Flower.** Obviously, other cogent issues were discussed. One of the three sets of original documents is in my secured possession. And as they say, the rest is history!
- It is painful for me to advise Tun that Tun should only play the role of **“Advisor”** to facilitate the party’s strategic role in **securing political and economic stability for our country. Let go Tun, and have faith that PM Muhyiddin will put the interests of the country’s first.**
- The proverbial thorn in the side of PM Muhyiddin after being by-passed as “Deputy PM” to Pak Lah (5th Prime Minister) and substituted at Tun’s insistence by Najib Razak is in my judgment no longer an issue. Muhyiddin is now the PM and I am sure that as a devout Muslim, he has accepted Allah’s will and has moved on. Tun owes PM Muhyiddin big time for that interference and should give space to PM and total support!

- Bersatu is not, and must never be a political vehicle for dynastic succession and Tun should desist from attempting to secure his son, Mukhriz Mahathir as President of Bersatu in a direct challenge to Tan Sri Muhyiddin who is the current President and Prime Minister (PM).
- Whatever the outcome (not that Mukhriz will succeed in my judgment), this infantile political gambit would invite scorn and abuse as Tun would be declaring that **nepotism is the birth right of the power elites**. Mukhriz would be rightly perceived as man without principles, with no backbone and is motivated solely by the lust for power when challenging the PM for the presidency of the Bersatu party!
- If Tun believes that he can get away with this charade, he would be committing an unprecedented political crime. If Najib Razak has been labelled as a Kleptocrat, Money-Lauderer, Financial Rapist, Tun can be assured that he would be condemned as a Political Charlatan, a secular Political Monarch worse than the absolute rulers of the Middle Eastern Arab states which the British colonialists created as such! Malaysia deserves better than a feudal nepotic father/son combo to lead us.
- The country is facing an unprecedented crisis and we have to rally behind the PM to defeat Covid 19. That is our one and only priority and not for anyone to jockey for power. We must move in one coordinated formation.

Global Economic Review

In preparing our country to move forward, post the defeat of Covid 19, it is imperative that all our strategies, plans etc must be executed within the context of the current global political, economic, military under-currents. This is not rocket science. We must also keep in view three historical global financial crises, namely:

1930 Great Depression;

1971 The Nixon Fiat Monetary Regime and subsequently the Petro-Dollar;

2008 The Great Recession, followed by FED and Central Banks Quantitative Easings (QEs).

We must now prepare for the next global financial seismic shift – The Great Reset of the Global Financial System.

That said, I am sure that all relevant institutions have the appropriate data sets of our economy. If not, Malaysia is in deep shits. So, how should we proceed? I would suggest as follows:

For the purpose of this discussion, I invite all to bear in mind the following curves or shapes:

The V CURVE

The U CURVE (or rather the double U Curve)

The L (Hockey Stick Curve)

Let's get started.

All industries undergo cycles of boom and bust. The cycles are never in tandem. At any one time / stage of the national cycle, some industries are on the upward, growth trend while others are at the downward, recessionary trend.

Malaysia, as well as other countries is in an unprecedented crisis and BEFORE we even discuss growth prospects etc, we must be realistic in our objectives and the steps needed to move forward. Therefore, we must adopt a Step by Step approach as follows:

- **A detail analysis of all the major industries' health status (using the above curves as a guide) ante the Covid 19 crisis.** As an example, where and on which curve was the greed driven housing industry situated, compounded by the Affordable Housing fiasco. My view, in spite of the hype by vested interests, is that the culprits are still wallowing in the cesspool of over supply and still at the bottom of whichever curve. A few companies have their noses above the waterline, but with the Covid 19 crisis, they are all sinking fast.
- The term "stimulus" is a misnomer in reference to the PH short sighted RM20 Billion "stimulus" announced by Tun M and the RM250 Billion "stimulus" announced by the new administration.
- **Our focus should be, HOW CAN WE BRING THE COUNTRY BACK TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE THE CRISIS?** Some industries were already drowning (as in the case of the Housing Industry). Others were doing fairly well.
- Common sense demands that we **MUST PREVENT** (as in the case of Covid 19) **healthy and sound companies from being INFECTED by the economic fall-out from the health crisis.** This must be our priority to maintain the status quo ante! **The cure must not be worse than the disease!** If agree, proceed to next paragraph. If not, I am wasting my time as was the case when the PH regime was in control!
- **So, go through with the fine-tooth comb to determine which sectors of the economy and what pools of employees (jobs, jobs, jobs) must be saved from the "economic infection". To hell with the screams of the loud mouths "we are suffering and dying, SOS" if they are not even healthy ante Covid 19 crisis!**
- **Those industries that provide the largest pool of employees must have priority!**
- The government cannot save all at the same time. This is a financial and physical impossibility. We have to tell the powerful lobbyists for the non-priority sectors / industries to wait in the queue!
- **Once we have established the ladder of priorities (which requires strong political will) we can then send out the "Financial Lifeboats".**

- My time line expectations, on a conservative measure is a minimum of six to nine months for the entire economy to revert to the status quo ante Covid 19 crisis. However, some sectors may have a V curve recovery within three to six months e.g. the food industry in the general sense.

Time lag. This issue when mishandled can throw the spanner in the works. To understand the issue of TIME LAG, we must understand the SUPPLY CHAIN (and the disruptions) to our strategic industries. **If the dislocations are caused by the Supply Chain, we must first address the problem at that level and not pump monies to companies or an industry at the end of the supply line. No use keeping the end-line afloat with massive monetary injections while the Supply Chain has collapsed. Good money has been wasted.** However, if the supply chain is mainly anchored externally, and the sectors and or industries are significant on our **Critical Path Analysis** for recovery and future growth, then our fiscal and monetary policies must be calibrated for effective intervention and avoid falling into the trap of moral hazards.

There are other issues to be addressed which I will do so in a subsequent article.

I am ending here because if my suggested strategy **TO REVERT TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE COVID 19 FIRST, BEFORE TURBO-CHARGING OUR ECONOMY FOR GROWTH IS REJECTED, I TAKE THE VIEW THAT WE ARE ADOPTING THE WRONG APPROACH.**

Analogy: If an athlete has been down with a severe flu, he cannot compete in any competition unless and until he has been rehabilitated to peak performance.

To be continued