

**Organised by:**



**LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP**  
SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SEMINAR ON  
TUN ABDUL RAZAK  
(PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA, 1970 - 1976)

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2016, Thursday**  
**Royale Chulan Kuala Lumpur**

**Welcoming Remarks by**  
**YBhg Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah**  
**Chairman, ASLI**

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YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak  
Prime Minister of Malaysia

YABhg Datin Sri Rosmah Mansor (to be confirmed)

YABhg Tun Rahah Tan Sri Mohammad Noah  
Widow of Tun Abdul Razak

YABhg Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid  
Chancellor, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak;  
Chairman, Permodalan Nasional Bhd

Tuns  
Excellencies  
Tan Sris, Puan Sris, Datuks, Datins  
Distinguished Speakers  
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is my great pleasure to deliver the Welcoming Remarks at this very significant Luncheon Programme and to specially welcome our Prime Minister YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib as well as the Razak family to today's luncheon.
2. In contemplating the direction forward for Contemporary Malaysia, I believe the time is ripe for us to revisit the past and learn from it. Today's Special Commemorative Seminar on Tun Abdul Razak is held exactly on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his demise as we attempt to seek answers to pertinent questions on political and socio-economic challenges facing the nation now through Tun Abdul Razak's leadership and work ethics as well as his models of development and nation building.
3. During the administration of Tun Abdul Razak, Malay political primacy grew as he sought to please the Malay nationalists. However, at the same time he desired to preserve and strengthen Malaysia as a plural, multi-ethnic nation.
4. The balancing of these two inherently differing interests led to several important legacies, namely – (a) the New Economic Policy to uplift the Malays economically; (b) the formation of Barisan Nasional

to be a government of national unity comprising a wider coalition of political parties than the original Alliance Government; (c) the development of a National Culture Policy derived mainly from Islam and the Malay culture while incorporating suitable elements from other cultures; (d) the shifting of focus to infrastructure development in rural areas to narrow the rural-urban divide; as well as (e) the charting of a new direction in the nation's foreign policy, which made Malaysia a leader and spokesperson of Third World countries.

5. In addition, Tun Abdul Razak created a national identity through the national language to further facilitate national integration. In his view, which was published in Straits Times on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1972, the government policy on national unity was not by assimilation but by integration. In that sense, integration meant mutual adjustment of our diverse cultural and social traits in a manner acceptable to all ethnic groups. Tun Abdul Razak required Malays and Non-Malays alike to use the Malay language widely so that it could become the sole national language for all citizens.
6. Another of Tun Abdul Razak's contribution that has often been overlooked in its importance to nation-building and national integration would be the National Ideology or Rukunegara with its 5 precepts to (a) believe in God; (b) be loyal to king and country; (c) uphold the constitution; (d) uphold the rule of law; and (e) adopt good behaviour and morality. I strongly believe that many problems we face today would not have arisen if each of us live by the 5 precepts of the Rukunegara, and more importantly the preamble to the Rukunegara which called for the building of a liberal Malaysian society.
7. Post 13<sup>th</sup> May 1969 until his premature death on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1976, I would say that Tun Abdul Razak had achieved a significant semblance of national integration and racial harmony as well as political stability through his efforts at seeking consensus and political reconciliation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. A key lesson from this statesman, in my humble personal opinion, would be the willingness to allow for debate, albeit behind closed doors, as well as the humility to seek the views of various parties and interests in consultation. Tun Abdul Razak consulted with representatives of a wide range of ethnic communities, NGOs, religious groups, business associations and trade unions, mass media, talents within and outside the government circles, and even opposition parties in his capacity as premier.
9. Before concluding, I would like to highlight that Tun Abdul Razak had set up the Anti-Corruption Agency in 1970 to move against corruption especially in high places. It is therefore my highest hope to see the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission carry on this important task without fear or favour under the administration of his son, YAB Dato'Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak.
10. I believe it will also be pertinent and timely for all of us to be reminded of the tenets of the New Economic Policy or NEP (1970 – 1990) as set out by Tun Abdul Razak in the Second Malaysia Plan. The NEP sought to eradicate poverty irrespective of race and to restructure society in order to eliminate the identification of race with economic vocation and geographical location. He further stressed that the NEP was premised upon a growing economic cake.
11. My closing remark would be to call for moderation as espoused by YAB Dato'Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak in balancing the interests of the various ethnic groups that make up our beloved nation as we seek to continue narrowing the rural-urban divide and break out of the middle-income trap to become a First World Nation, and also to call for greater tolerance to counter the perception of rising Islamisation that is putting fear not just in Non-Muslims, but also in some Muslims. I am convinced that YAB Dato'Sri Mohd Najib as the son of Tun Abdul Razak will not only be able to preserve and protect Tun Abdul Razak's legacy but will also enhance and build on it for the benefit of all Malaysians.

Thank you.