

CHALLENGING TIMES

TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA

Edited by J.S. Solomon



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Foreword

The last two or three years have been as eventful and challenging as any in recent Malaysian history. We have witnessed a crisis within the M.C.A.; and in a small measure UMNO also had squabbles for election to the leading posts in all its branches and divisions. The contest was fought out with heated determination. A new party has also taken power in Sabah where a legal court battle is raging to determine the right of the new party to maintain power. Lawyers fighting the issue are drawn from the Queen's counsels, and this will cost the contesting parties large sums of money. I have tried my best to settle the squabbles but failed, so all I can do is sit back and hope for the best.

An outbreak of religious violence unprecedented in the history of Malaysia had taken place in Baling, Kedah. This has brought out new mood in the people which portends danger to the peace and future well-being of the country. Care must be taken to prevent an outbreak of other such acts of violence. I have prayed to Allah to give me guidance so that I can pour out my heart to the people in the hope that they will pay more attention to good reason.

On the whole I think the time is right for me to publish yet another collection of my thoughts and views on various matters of national interest. No matter what happens, it is important that wisdom and commonsense prevail if the people are to continue to live in peace and harmony. This is a free country, and we must keep it that way for all time. We are sworn to uphold democratic principles, and we must keep our word.

It is not easy to make a record of events for this generation and the next. However, I will continue to write in the hope that what I have to say will also help to benefit posterity. To assist readers

the various articles have been divided up according to subjects. There is also a general introduction to help readers understand the context in which the articles were written.

I have left it to Pelanduk Publications to pick the articles for this book, and I hope they have made the right choice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra', with a decorative flourish underneath.

Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra.