
TUN TAN:

PORTRAIT OF A STATESMAN

QUINS

J. V. Morais

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Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj
The first Prime Minister of Malaysia

FOREWORD

BY

Y.T.M. TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA.

It gives me much pleasure to write a foreword for this book on my good friend and former colleague, Tun Tan Siew Sin. I have known him from the days we were members of the former Federal Legislative Council, but we were in the opposite camp politically because as he had said and often repeated that he did not know me well enough to accept me as a political associate. When his late father was scheduled to address the Alliance inaugural meeting at the Chinese Assembly Hall, he managed to entice his father away, so we held our first meeting without Sir Cheng Lock Tan. It was not until he was convinced that I am a man whom he could trust that he finally decided to join the Alliance Party and he became from that moment onwards a staunch friend.

He was a colleague in my Cabinet and became a pillar of strength to me and an asset to the cabinet, and his advice had been invaluable at all times. He started first as Minister of Commerce and Industry in which his honesty, knowledge and business acumen exuded confidence in the country among the business community. The country grew into a successful commercial entity.

Then he became the Finance Minister and I am glad to say the financial security and economic stability of the country during the period won wide acclamation. He was not only firm but fair to all in his dealings with the various Ministers who had often sought funds from him for their projects. He was so strict that he even turned down one or two of my requests for funds for the Prime Minister's Department. In fact when his leave was approved he had it cancelled when he learnt that I was appointing myself as the Minister of Finance, so to give him his much deserved vacation I appointed Tun