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UMNO  YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
AND
STRUGGLE

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FOREWORD

This book presents the development of the leadership and struggles of the Malaysian UMNO Youth Movement since its inception, and addresses the issues and challenges of the year 2000. The developments occurring in the Youth Movement during a certain period was identified through the leadership of its leaders based on his role, actions, personality and caliber.

The UMNO Youth movement was established on 2 March 1947 with its original name as UMNO Youth Department. On 26 August 1949, it was changed to UMNO Youth Alliance and since then it developed by leaps and bounds until it was declared illegal, after which it was revived and continued its activities whilst maintaining its original form and goals. During its 43 years in existence, the Youth Movement continued to move forward in line with the developments of its parent body and the nation.

These struggle and development can be divided into six different era. The first era was the struggle to invigorate the movement through its first two leaders, Capt. Hussein Onn and Dato' Abdul Razak Hussain. The second era witnessed the movement going through a strengthening process. During this era, the Youth Movement was led by Sardon Jubir and Senu Abdul Rahman. The third era saw the Youth Movement moving actively as a pressure group and overseer of the goings on in the party, government and private bodies. During this time, it was feared and respected due to its aggressive and outspoken method of action. The leaders during this era was Datuk Harun Idris followed by Syed Jaafar Albar and Datuk Suhaimi Haji Kamaruddin. In the fourth era, the Movement experienced the leadership of Anwar Ibrahim who emphasized Islamic values. The fifth

era, under the leadership of Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak emphasized the concept of Firm Roots, Sophisticated Minds. This was in line with the current environment and the nations effort to achieve its aspirations of acquiring developed nation status. At the same time, this era also devoted some attention to efforts to revive the party's integrity and ensure the movement and its parent body UMNO, continued to receive the trust of the Malays. The sixth era shall emphasize on the dynamism of Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik with his globalisation idea for UMNO Youth and the realization of the concept of Vision 2020 which is the objective and aspiration of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammed. It is hoped that the birth of this book will give a clear insight to the Malays in particular, and the UMNO leaders in general, on the struggle of the Youth Movement in ensuring the supremacy of the Malays in their homeland survives in the future generations.

Ahmad Zahid Hamidi