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Viewpoints

TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
(First Prime Minister of Malaysia)

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PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA
MALAYSIA

M 1046923
Hadiah

The moving finger writes and having writ,
Moves on; nor all thy Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line
Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it.

Omar Khayyam

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By Way of Explanation

In bringing this book to the public I wish to make my object quite plain. I wrote these articles in the *Star* because I felt strongly that something had to be done to bring home to our young people, in particular students of politics, the historic significance of events since World War II which led to our Independence and nationhood.

Oddly enough no attempt has been made to give our youth any real idea of how we won Independence. One academic author did write a book in Malay on Malaysia's Independence, a work which was actually distributed to schools for our boys and girls to read, but the author had completely omitted to associate me with events leading to Independence. My service needs no more to be remembered — I am a "has been."

Perhaps I am getting on in years, but I remember that there was a time in my life when I was acclaimed "Bapa Malaya", and later "Bapa Malaysia". I had always thought these endearing terms were meant to indicate the role I played in the birth of our nation. Perhaps I am mistaken; if so, I hope this book will serve to correct any basic errors and be useful for reference as well. At least it comes straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak, a metaphor I like as a life-long fan of horse-racing.

I cannot say, however, that I have had complete access to information in working on my articles for I have had to dig here and there. All the papers I had kept were lost during my years of moving about for the Islamic Secretariat in Jeddah from 1970 to 1974. But what I have related about all the events in my book are as true as one could wish them to be. To my mind there is nothing to hide. All that I have said is intended to give historic data, facts and figures, for our young Malaysians. So I hope they will understand the basic value of this book.

My thanks go to several persons — Mr. Jee Guan Huat who left his family in Kuala Lumpur to join me in Penang where I have retired, to help me in my work, and whenever I am in Kuala Lumpur, which is fairly often, Mr. Cheah Phee Cheok assists me there. The editing has been done by my old Press Secretary, Mr. Frank Sullivan, working with Mr. Cheah. These are my old "faithfuls" and they still remain as ever "yours faithfully" all these years.

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