

MAN WHO WRESTED KELANTAN FROM PAS

TENGGU Razaleigh Hamzah has built up a reputation as a financial wizard and his memory is said to be even better than an elephant's.

At 44, Tengku Razaleigh is one of the youngest Finance Ministers in the world and has held the chairmanship of the Asian Development Bank (1976), and Islamic Development Bank (1977) and was a member of the World Bank's Board of Governors (1977-78).

Born in Kola Baru, Kelantan, on April 13, 1937, he is the son of former Kelantan Menteri Besar, Tengku Sri Maharaja Hamzah bin Tengku Zainal Abidin.

He had his early education at the Padang Garung Malay school in Kota Baru and his secondary education at the Sultan Ismail College in Kota Baru until 1954.

Tengku Razaleigh then went to the Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and obtained his Bachelor of Science (Economics) degree in 1958.

He read law at Lincoln's Inn in London but his studies were interrupted when he had to return home following the death of his father in 1961.

He ran his father's business and in 1961 joined Umno in Kelantan - which was then the strong-

hold of the Pan-Malayan Islamic Party (PMIP, now PAS).

His active participation caught the eye of party leaders and in 1963 - just two years later and when he was only 26 - he was appointed to the Umno Supreme Council.

In 1964, Tengku Razaleigh joined the Indian Overseas Bank (now United Asian Bank) as its advisor.

The following year, the Government set up Bank Bumiputra and Tengku Razaleigh, at 28, was appointed its executive director.

His political career received another boost when he was appointed deputy chairman of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee in 1967.

The committee was then headed by Umno deputy president and Deputy Prime Minister, the late Tun Abdul Razak.

In the 1969 general election, Umno fielded 16 new faces in Kelantan State constituencies in the general election.

Tengku Razaleigh was picked to contest the Ulu Kelantan Barat seat and although PAS retained control of Kelantan, he beat the party's Hussein Abdullah and was later elected Opposition Leader in the Kelantan State Assembly.

In 1976, the chairman

£ I APPEAL to nil dolegotos to consider this year's General Assembly as similar to previous Assemblies. What we are doing tomorrow is something normal which we carry out with full responsibility once every three years.

I appeal to all Umno members to uphold Umno tradition and respect tradition in this year's " General Assembly.

and managing director of Bank Bumiputra, Encik Ahmad Raslan, died in a motor accident and Tengku Razaleigh was appointed to take over.

He was also appointed chairman of the newly-formed Perbadanan Nasional (National Corporation or Pernas) and laid the foundation for its growth.

The following year, Tengku Razaleigh was elected to the Umno Supreme Council and was also appointed party treasurer, a post he holds up to now.

He was also appointed chairman of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee

when Tun Razak gave up the post.

It was also in 1971 that Tengku Razaleigh, as Pernas chairman, led the first official trade delegation to China - a mission which culminated with Tun Razak's visit to China in 1974.

In 1973, Tengku Razaleigh was appointed one of the three vice-presidents of Umno to fill the vacancy left by Datuk Hussein Onn who had become the party's deputy president following the death of Tun Dr Ismail.

The following year, Tengku Razaleigh was

nicked to contest the Ulu Kelantan Parliamentary seat on the Barisan Nasional ticket and was elected unopposed.

Later the same year, Tun Razak appointed him chairman of Petroleum Nasional (Petronas) - a post which carried the same rank as a Cabinet Minister.

The following year, Tengku Razaleigh contested for one of the vice-presidencies and came in second behind Encik Ghafar Baba but ahead of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Following Tun Razak's death in 1976, Datuk Hussein Onn became Prime Minister and in doing so, gave up his Finance portfolio.

On March 5, 1976, Tengku Razaleigh succeeded Datuk Hussein as the Finance Minister - a choice that was widely accepted and praised -



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and he had held the post up to now.

Minister

Two years later, in 1976, he masterminded the Barisan Nasional's victory in the Kelantan State elections - and the Barisan, specifically Umno, finally had control of the state after nearly 20 years of PAS rule.

The same year he retained his Ulu Kelantan Parliamentary seal in the general election and continued to chart the nation's economy as the Finance

In the Umno elections in 1978, he emerged as first vice-president when he polled 763 votes - ahead of Encik Ghafar Baba (705 votes) and Datuk Musa Hitam (699 votes).

He is also a member of several Cabinet Committees and last year was put in charge of the salary and allowance revision of Ministers, MPs, Senators, Mentris Besar, State Executive Councillors and State Assemblymen.