

CNS9486

B GE 10-12 00199 EB407

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Parliament - Tunku (Mahathir) (replacing earlier item)

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 10 (Bernama) — The name and contributions of the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj will be written in gold in Malaysia's history, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

His contributions could never be erased from the minds of the people and no one can deny his sacrifices for this nation which he loved very much, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

Tabling a motion recording the Dewan Rakyat's sadness and regret over the passing of the Father of Malaysia's Independence, the Prime Minister said the greatness of a man could be measured in two ways.

Firstly by looking into his deeds — what he had done and what he had implemented when he was alive and secondly by looking at his personality.

He said the late Tunku was born into a royal family but his role and personality developed as a leader of the people.

+The late Tunku freed us from the clutches of colonialism and gave us dignity as nationals of an independent and sovereign country,+ he said. — more

♥10/12/19-36MST

CNS9509

R GE 10-12 00172 EB408

aae

Parliament - Tunku (Mahathir) 2 Kuala Lumpur

The late Deputy Prime Minister Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman described the Tunku as warm and unassuming and capable of being at ease at any situation — be it in the Istana, kampung or among people of high or low rank, rich or poor.

+As the pioneer of independence for this country, the Tunku's contributions are invaluable,+ the Prime Minister said.

The Tunku had laid the foundation for various institutions in the country which have survived to this day and through his efforts the people now had inherited the country's constitution its political institutions and its structure of administration.

The Tunku was not only a leader of the Malays in gaining independence for this country but was also an illustrious statesman respected and loved by all communities.

+The Alliance political formula initiated by the Tunku to unite the people of Malaysia had proved its usefulness for our nation,+ he said. — more

♥10/12/19-52MST

CNS9523

R GE 10-12 00174 EB409

aae

Parliament - Tunku (Mahathir) 3 Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said after having achieved independence and formed Malaysia, the Tunku guided this country towards progress and prosperity.

The Tunku had laid the foundation for moderation among the people of various races such as tolerance, understanding and goodwill so that the multi-racial people of Malaysia would live in peace and tranquility.

+It was the Tunku who founded the politics of compromise and collaboration among groups of different background and interests.+

The Tunku opposed the communist ideology and communism and when signing the declaration marking the end of the emergency, he expressed his joy over the unity and loyalty of the people in this country.

The Prime Minister said even though the Tunku was a firm opponent of communism he was nevertheless a lover of peace and quoted the late statesman's words: + I believe in giving the people clothes instead of uniform; houses instead of barracks; food instead of bullets+.-- more.

♥10/12/20-05MST

CNS9539

R GE 10-12 00199 EB410

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Parliament - Tunku (Mahathir) 4 Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also listed the Tunku's various other achievements and contributions such as in the field of propagating Islamic teachings.

He started the Quran Reading competitions, proposed the formation of a Muslim Commonwealth and became the first Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference.

The Prime Minister also mentioned the Tunku's role in the formation of ASA (Association of Southeast Asia) which later became Asean with Indonesia and Singapore as additional members.

The Tunku was the foremost opponent of apartheid and as a lover of sports he started the Merdeka Cup Soccer Tournament and became the first President of the Asian Football Association.

As a patron of the arts, the Tunku gave attention to Malay cultural heritage and was a prolific writer.

The people of Malaysia deeply regret his passing and are very much saddened, he said.

In his death Malaysia has lost a respected and illustrious leader and statesman, the Prime Minister said.

+The Tunku's sacrifices and struggle in the cause of the nation will remain an inspiration to all Malaysians,† he said. — Bernama

♥10/12/20-25MST