

CNS4581

R GE 07-07 00199 EA700

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MEMORIAL FOR TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN LAUNCHED

Memorial

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 7, (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Memorial project and expressed the hope that it would remind all Malaysians of the late former Prime Minister's contributions to the nation, race and religion.

The Prime Minister said it was important for the country and all generations to recognise the struggles and sacrifices made by the Tunku to build and uphold the sovereignty and prosperity of the country.

+Although we are building a monument to the late Tunku, the true monument for him is the peaceful multi-racial nation of Malaysia,+ he added.

+There is no honour greater than the efforts of the multi-racial people of Malaysia to maintain racial harmony,+ he said when launching the project at the Residency, the Tunku's official residence within the Prime Minister's Department complex, in Jalan Datuk Onn.

The ceremony was witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba, Cabinet ministers, senior officials, the diplomatic corps and members of the Tunku's family led by his children Tunku Amat Nerang Tunku Khadijah. -- more

▼07/07/13-10MST

R GE 07-07 00189 EA702

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Memorial 2 Kuala Lumpur

The +Father of Independence+, the Tunku led the country from 1955, first as Chief Minister before becoming Prime Minister two years later when Malaysia gained its Independence.

He stepped down in 1970 and remained active in public life until his death on Dec.6, 1990 at the age of 87.

Dr Mahathir said the memorial being built was not meant to idolise a national leader but to remind the people, particularly the future generations, of the struggles of the Tunku.

+The memorial will play an important role as a centre for research on a beloved and respected statesman who has contributed much to the nation and people,+ he added.

It would also enrich the country's historic treasures begun with the setting up of the Tun Abdul Razak Memorial, the country's second Prime Minister, 10 years ago.

Dr Mahathir underscored the importance for the people to look to history to realise their place in humanity and the world and to give strength and foundation to creation of a new civilisation. -- more

▼07/07/13-35MST

R GE 07-07 00177 EA703

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Memorial 3 Kuala Lumpur

+Understanding the history of the late Tunku is to understand the history of the struggle for independence by the people of Malaysia,+ he said.

He added that Malaysia was noted for its rapid pace of development because of the prevailing peace in a multi-racial country.

+Although this is something taken to be normal today, at the time of Malaysia's independence many people predicted that the country would be torn apart by fighting between the people and animosity among the races once the colonialists left the country,+ he said.

The peaceful situation and well-being of the country were results of the philosophy of the Tunku who was the architect of the foundation of unity in Malaysia, he added.

He said the Residency, which served as the Tunku's official residence from 1956 to 1970, was a fitting choice for the memorial as most of the discussions, decisions and actions which influenced the history of the country were made there. -- more

▼07/07/14-02MST

CNS4616

R GE 07-07 00111 EA704

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Memorial 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir hoped the people would help make the project a success by contributing to the Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial Fund, to be used for construction of ancillary buildings and maintainance of the memorial.

He said: +To make the Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial one that the people can be proud of and one that will be visited by all sections of society and tourists, it must be provided the necessary experts and sufficient allocation.

+The people's contribution will be a measure of their appreciation to a beloved and respected leader and statesman.+ -- Bernama

▼07/07/14-04MST