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Profile of Tan Sri Melan Abdullah

TAN Sri Melan Abdullah, who was awarded the National Eminent Journalist Award last night, was born in Batu Pahat, Johor, on April 14, 1918, and was editor of Majlis, Pedoman, Watan and the Utusan Melayu Group before and after independence.

At Utusan Melayu he held the position of Group Editor-in-Chief.

He was bestowed the Panglima Setia Mahkota award which carries the title Tan Sri by the former Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar in 1995.

Melan was among six award-winning journalists who was chosen to receive the National Excellent Journalist award from the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1996.

He was a journalist with Majlis in 1951 when Umno was facing an upheaval as its president Datuk Onn Jaafar urged the party's committee to accept other races in Umno.

However, the resolution did not receive support and as a result, forced Onn to pull out from Umno.

The situation caused other Umno stalwarts to look for his replacement.

Among stalwarts involved in the search was the late Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak, together with Melan.

Melan was also involved in the choice of Tunku Abdul Rahman leading the party.

He was also in the Kesatuan Melayu Muda under the leadership of Ibrahim Yaakob.

In 1981, he was an advisor to Watan. Melan was awarded the Darjah Yang Amat Mulia, 2nd Class by the Sultan of Johor.

Melan has been described by Datuk Abdullah Ahmad, Malaysia's Special Envoy to the United Nations, as among "influential media persons outside the Government like the late Leslie Hoffman, the late Tan Sri Lee Siew Yee, Tan Sri Samad Ismail and Datuk Mazlan Nordin".

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