

28 JUN 2003

Integrity-Award

THREE TUNS RECEIVE NATIONAL INTEGRITY AWARDS POSTHUMOUSLY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28 (bernama) -- Former deputy prime minister Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman, former finance minister Tun Tan Siew Sin and former Bank Negara Governor Tun Ismail Mohamed Ali were tonight conferred the Transparency International Malaysia National Integrity Awards posthumously.

The awards were presented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the representative of their families.

Mohamed Taufik received the award on behalf of his late father Tun Dr Ismail, Tan Siok Choo for Tan and Kamal and Iskandar Ismail for Ismail.

The three Tuns were conferred the awards in recognition of their outstanding integrity while in office and their capacity and determination to confront corruption by upholding the principles of integrity, honesty and accountability.

Transparency International Malaysia President Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim said the awards were to honour Malaysia's three great sons -- Tun Dr Ismail, Tun Tan Siew Sin and Tun Ismail -- men of unimpeachable character.

He said they lived and led by example, whose personal values of honour, honesty and integrity have been valued enormously.

Tun Dr Ismail, who was born on Nov 4, 1915 in Johor Baharu, came from a family that was very much involved in the pre-independence nationalist movement, with his father, Datuk Abdul Rahman Yasin, was a former president of the state assembly.

After the then Malaya attained its independence from the British rule, Tun Dr Ismail was appointed Malaysia's first permanent representative to the United Nations.

He became the first Member of Parliament for Mersing after winning the constituency in the 1959 federal election.

Tun Dr Ismail spearheaded the formation of the first anti-corruption committee in the Cabinet in 1966, chairing the inaugural meeting himself in that year. The Anti-Corruption Agency of Malaysia was set up a year later.

When Tun Abdul Razak Hussein became Prime Minister in 1970, Tun Dr Ismail was appointed Deputy Prime Minister. Tun Dr Ismail died at the age of 57 in 1973.

Born on May 21, 1916, Tun Tan Siew Sin was the son of MCA's founder Tun Tan Cheng Lock and Toh Puan Yeo Yeok Neo.

The former Finance Minister, grew up in a family with a staunch belief in Confucius teachings and traditional Chinese virtues, with principles of making an honest living and avoiding ill-gotten gains.

Tun Tan Siew Sin had once pointed out in a speech, "The Need for Dedicated Civil Servants," delivered in February, 1968: "Nothing can be more depressing and self-destroying than to see significant sums of income-generating capital leaking through the cracks of corruption, while the people continue to be deprived of the fruits of economic development."

When he passed away in 1988, he was accorded the honour of a state funeral and according to his daughter, Siok Choo, her father would prefer to be remembered as a political leader, who set a benchmark of integrity in his stewardship of the economy and of the MCA.

Tun Ismail, a legend, a leader with foresight to whom the nation owed the vision of Permodalan Nasional Berhad.

The first Malaysian to hold the post of Bank Negara Governor, he was the longest serving Asian central bank governor. Throughout his 18 years at

Bank Negara, he laid out a strong foundation of the country's financial system.

Tun Ismail's character was well reflected in his famous epilogue: "To be humble in front of your superiors is duty. To be humble among your peers is courtesy. To be humble before your subordinates is nobility."

-- BERNAMA

HS HS TS