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Follow vision of Tun Dr Ismail, leaders urged

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Raja Nazrin on qualities of true leaders

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PETALING JAYA: Leaders should not betray the loyalty of their followers with misdeeds and greed to amass personal and family wealth, Raja Nazrin Shah warned.

The Raja Muda of Perak likened leadership to a tree, where the people formed the roots that would determine its healthy and luscious growth.

He advised leaders to emulate the leadership, sincerity, sacrifices and integrity shown by the late Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman and the first wave of post independence leaders.

The prince said this when launching a tribute book in memory of the former deputy prime minister, *Bukan Kerana Pangkat: Tun Dr Ismail dan Masanya*.

The book is the Malay version of the biography written by Dr Ooi Kee Beng, the coordinator of the Malaysia Study Programme at the

Institute of Southeast East Asian Studies in Singapore.

Dr Ismail, who was the deputy to the country's second prime minister, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, died on Aug 2, 1973.

A visibly emotional Raja Nazrin, who paused several times during his speech, said that after 50 years of independence, there should not be any distance between those in power and the masses.

In paying tribute to Dr Ismail and the past leaders, the prince said:

"They took responsibility to voice out and defend the needy and the people. This is the spirit which enabled this country to be stable politically and economically prosperous."

He said while Dr Ismail was known to be a Malay nationalist, he was not a racist and did not practise racism.

"Tun Dr Ismail envisaged a Malaysia for all without colour lines, without ethnic borders and without any one group feeling a sense of inferiority," Raja Nazrin said.