

THE STAR

DATE: 04/09/2007

Onn Jaafar is Tokoh Anak Gemilang

The Star - 4/9/2007

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno founder Datuk Onn Jaafar has been declared the *Tokoh Anak Gemilang Malaysia*.

The decision was announced by the head of the jury panel Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, after 10 lobbyists presented their respective cases in a programme broadcast live by Astro and Radio Television Malaysia (RTM).

Onn was among 10 candidates who were short-listed for the programme in conjunction with the country's 50th Merdeka celebrations.

The other candidates were two former prime ministers Tun Abdul Razak Hussein and Tun Hussein Onn, footballer Mokhtar Dahari, actor Tan Sri P. Ramlee, social worker and unionist Dr P.P. Narayanan, economist Raja Tun Mohar Raja Badiozaman, singer Sudirman Haji Arshad, politician Tun Tan Cheng Lock, and literary and cultural activist Zainal Abidin Ahmad or Za'aba. All of them have died.

The winner received a pewter trophy and RM30,000.

Professor Datuk Dr Ramlah Adam, who represented Onn's family, received the prizes from Ahmad Sarji.

Besides uniting the Malays, Onn also played a major role in efforts to gain independence.

As Umno president, he proposed that the party accept all races as members.

However, his proposal was rejected and he subsequently resigned in 1951 and formed Parti Kemerdekaan Malaya before forming Parti Negara in 1954.

He failed in his bid to become the first prime minister and died in 1962 at the age of 67. — Bernama