

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 04/09/2007

# Photographs keep alive memories of Tunku

NST-4/9/2007

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The black-and-white photographs at the Road to Nationhood exhibition here brought back cherished memories to many visitors.

Professor Datuk Rudin Salinger, 77, who first came to Malaysia 55 years ago, said his favourite photograph was the portrait of Tunku Abdul Rahman dressed in traditional garb on the day his cries of "Merdeka" filled Stadium Merdeka 50 years ago.

"Tunku was loved by everyone," he said.

Salinger first came to Malaya in 1952 to work for the Education Ministry under Tan Sri Mohd Khir Johari. He is the proud owner of Rudinara, which won the Aga Khan Award in 1998 for architectural brilliance.

He first met the Tunku at one of the meetings held for civil servants and their friendship took off from there.

"I have fond memories of Tunku. He was straightforward yet gentle.

"When I became a Muslim, the ceremony was held at Tunku's house on Brockman Road (now Jalan Dato Onn) with Tun Omar Yoke-Lin Ong as the witness.

But Salinger's most vivid memory of "Bapa Malaysia" was in the aftermath of the May 13 racial riots when Tunku cried and resigned as prime minister on national television.

"He could not understand how the racial riots could happen when he had the most diverse and multiracial friends."

Exhibitions such as this remind us, especially the younger generation, of our history.

*Professor Datuk Rudin Salinger*

Salinger hopes that May 13 will never repeat itself — a sentiment shared by 49-year-old Zahimi Zaiton Ibrahim.

"The May 13 riot changed the country. Exhibitions such as this remind us, especially the younger generation, of our history," he said.

Zahimi grew up hearing stories about his father's adventures while travelling in Europe with a young Malaysian studying in Britain. The young Malaysian turned out to be Tun Abdul Razak who later became the country's second prime minister.

"The photographs remind me a lot of the stories my father used to tell when I was a little boy."

For Members of Parliament Datuk Mohammad Shahrudin Osman of Lipis and Raimie Unggi of Tenom, the exhibition is a good reminder for the younger generation to appreciate the sacrifices of our na-

tion's leaders.

"NST has done a good job and this exhibition should be continued annually because to know our country is to love it," said Shahrudin.

Rosle Din, 56, and wife Kamariah Samsudin, also 56, were impressed with how well the *New Straits Times* had managed to preserve and document the newspapers since the pre-Merdeka era.

"Looking at these newspapers brings back a sense of nostalgia," said Rosle.

The Road to Nationhood exhibition is organised by the New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd and Bandar Raya Developments Bhd.

The exhibition, which ends on Sunday, is held at the lobby of Bangsar Shopping Centre from 10am to 10 pm daily.

A special edition book entitled *Road to Nationhood* is also available at the exhibition for RM130.