

# Tunku the statesman

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## Father of the Nation was a reluctant politician, says son

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra considered himself the Father of the Nation and not the prime minister, revealed his eldest son Tunku Ahmad Nerang.

"The Tunku was a reluctant politician. As the Father of the Nation, we should follow the values reflected in the Tunku's life," Tunku Ahmad Nerang said at the launch of a tribute to his father, *Prince Among Men: Recollections & Reflections on Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra*, here yesterday.

"The Tunku's thoughts as stated in the book can be the guideline for those interested in becoming the country's future leaders," he said.

He said the Tunku was not a politician in the actual sense of the word.

"He was a statesman and Father of the Nation and his beliefs transcended the limitations of party politics," he said.

The Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail launched the book, comprising 50 articles.

Acknowledging the famous personalities who had dug up their recollections of the Tunku's contributions to the country, Tunku Ahmad Nerang gave special mention to two in particular.

"One was titled *The Tale of Two Putras*, written by the Raja of Perlis' mother, whose late husband, the third Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, and the first prime minister both carried 'Putra' in their names.

»His beliefs transcended the limitations of party politics«

TUNKU AHMAD NERANG

"Another article, *The King Maker* written by Tuanku Ja'afar Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, tells of the similarities between his father and mine," he said.

The 494-paged book is sold in major bookstores at RM180 (hardcover with a box), RM140 (hardcover) and RM120 (soft cover).

At a press conference later, Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the book marked the base of the ministry's publishing efforts.

"This is a book of quality. In Malaysia, we do not have many books that are suitable to be presented to visitors and foreign dignitaries," he said.

He said the ministry planned to launch another book - *The Road to Merdeka* - on Aug 20.

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**Tribute to the Tunku:** Tunku Ahmad Nerang reflecting on his father's contributions at the launch of a book on the Tunku yesterday.