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Tunku, in his words and thoughts

THE young people behind the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) are determined to keep Tunku Abdul Rahman's key principles, and his spirit, alive by publishing a booklet summarising his thoughts and ideas based on his four ideals: rule of law, limited government, free market and individual liberty.

IDEAS founding president Tunku Zain Al-Abidin Tunku Muhriz said that while compiling the booklet, they came across many quotes of the Tunku that would have been "pertinent to the current political debate in the country".

"Many of them would even be controversial and in opposition to what is being said by the leaders now," he added.

"He was explicit in his views on these issues and, more importantly, the values that characterised his party, coalition and the government that he headed.

"He stuck by his beliefs even if it cost him politically. He could very easily have pandered to populist ideas and perhaps lengthened his political career but instead he accepted defeat like the gentleman that he was," Tunku Zain Al-Abidin said.

A recurring ideal in Tunku's writings, he added, is liberty or freedom. "Freedom is all over the place; it is even on his crest - *Dibebaskan* (freed).

"He knew what *merdeka* meant; he knew what freedom meant; and he knew how the democratic institutions, parliament, inde-

pendent judiciary, free press, state legislature, civil society, and, of course, the monarchy can work together to achieve and protect it."

Here are some of Tunku's ideals:

Rule of law

It is, therefore, the duty of both men and the nation - of men in relation to their own State and of nations in the relation to another - to spare no effort to sustain the rule of law to ensure the reign of peace.

Tunku's speech at the Conference of Asian Jurist in Tokyo, Japan, 1961

Limited government

In my time we had a Cabinet of 13 ministers. Even then they didn't have enough work. What they do now with 45, I don't know.

New Straits Times, 1983

Free market

In Malaya, we welcome fair competition, even if it competes with our own industry.

Tunku's speech at the opening of the Japan Trade Fair in Kuala Lumpur, 1960

Individual liberty

In the old days, people never bothered about what others did, so long as they were free to do what they liked themselves. Today, one cannot sneeze without being corrected, let alone enjoy oneself. That's what politics have done to our society.

The Star, 1975



Man of principles: Tunku waving goodbye before getting into a plane bound for Singapore at the Sungai Besi Airport in 1963.