

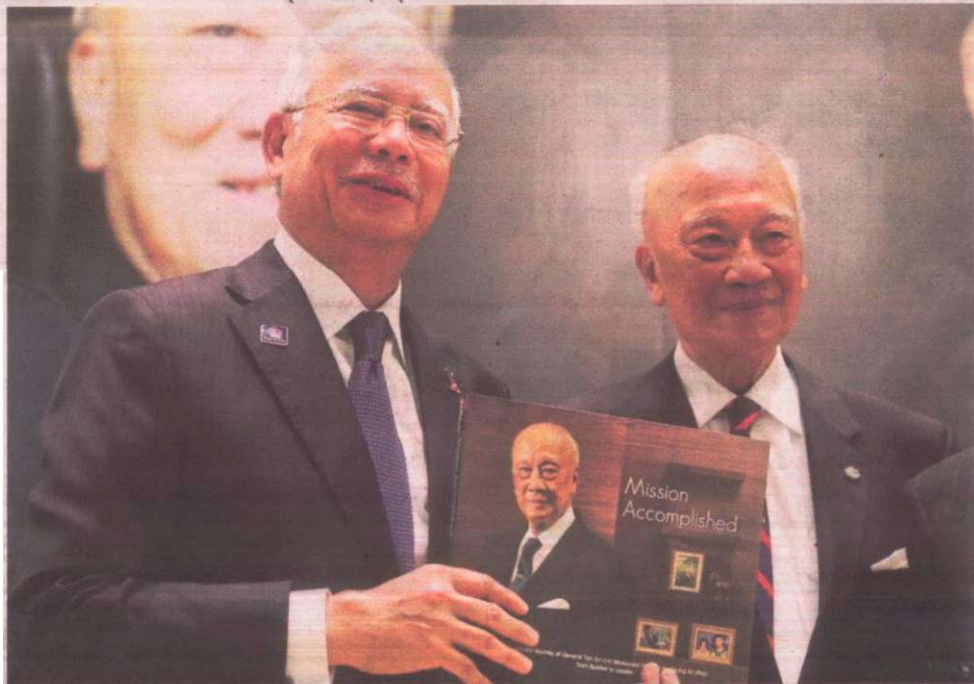
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Let history be our guide for the future, says Najib

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TREASURE TROVE:
'People can learn from former armed forces chief's life'

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and General Tan Sri Dr Mohamed Hashim Mohd Ali at the launch of the coffee-table book 'Mission Accomplished: The Military Journey of General Tan Sri Dr Mohamed Hashim Mohd Ali (Rtd) From Soldier to Leader' in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah

It is crucial to record journeys that will one day become a source of reference for others, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said such records were treasure troves for a nation to learn from, just like what Perwira Niaga Malaysia (Pernama) had done to trace the history of General Tan Sri Dr Mohamed Hashim Mohd Ali (Rtd), who was appointed armed forces chief on Oct 6, 1987.

"It is important for us to record our journey because history is our source of reference to learn from and be our guide for the future," he said at the launch of Hashim's biography in the form of a coffee-table book entitled *Mission Accomplished: The Military Journey of General Tan Sri Dr Mohamed Hashim Mohd Ali (Rtd) From Soldier to Leader* yesterday.

Present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, Armed Forces Chief General Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin, former inspector-general of police Tun Hanif Omar and Pemama chairman General (Rtd) Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Zainal.

Mission Accomplished, Najib said, had done well in documenting Hashim's achievements, offering readers insight into the major milestones of the latter's military career.

Najib said the coffee-table book not only provided interesting reading, but also served as an inspiration for future generations of leaders.

The prime minister also shared his experiences working with Hashim

during the former's tenure as defence minister.

"Solidifying national security was our common objective. We revamped and modernised the armed forces to meet ever-changing threats and took measures to minimise the risk of conflict.

"Hashim and I both believed that national security was related to regional and international security, and that it was in Malaysia's interest to expand our outlook and experience.

"This included taking part in peacekeeping duties in areas of conflict and consolidating global ties," said Najib, who also thanked Hashim for expressing his unwaver-

ing support for him as prime minister.

Hashim later elaborated on the importance of upholding tradition and discipline, which he said should go hand-in-hand.

He urged Malaysians not to take for granted the peace they were enjoying nowadays.

"We have seen what chaos can do to a country. I pray we do not have to go through that again."

Hashim had fought through the early years of the country's independence, the establishment of Malaysia and the confrontation with Indonesia.

He had battled and led the armed forces in the fight against commu-

nist insurgents, culminating in the signing of the Peace Accord, which ended the war in 1989.

Hashim said it was important for the military to support the government of the day.

Hashim said he supported the prime minister as he represented the government.

He said although those in the military must remain apolitical, this did not mean that they could not exercise their rights as citizens to choose who they wanted to lead the country during general elections.

He urged the people to understand the lyrics of the national anthem, *NegaraKu*, and uphold the five principles of Rukun Negara.