

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Newspaper | New Straits Times |
| Date      | 1 December 2015   |

# Razak rebuilds nation, Dr M rises

NSJ- 1/12/2015

**CAPABLE LEADERSHIP:** Third Umno president Tun Abdul Razak Hussein focused on mending racial relations and stabilising the economy after the 1969 riots. Under his stewardship, Malays began to benefit economically through the affirmative action policy. The period also saw the rise of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (now Tun), who would go on to stamp his mark after taking over from his predecessor, Tun Hussein Onn, write Hana Naz Harun and Laili Ismail

**A**FTER the 1969 riots, Malaysia began its healing process under the steady hands of a capable leader.

Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, succeeding Tunku Abdul Rahman as the second prime minister, had a huge responsibility to reunite and rebuild the faith of Malaysians who were deeply scarred by the May 13 racial riots.

After taking over from Tunku, Razak began asserting Umno's leadership in the Alliance. He introduced the country's most significant foundation in the social, political and economic aspects, which has made Malaysia what it is today.

One of his earliest moves as prime minister saw the Introduction of Rukun Negara.

The national philosophy declaration made on Aug 31, 1970, encouraged a shaken nation and its people on the path of unity.

When Parliament reconvened in 1971, negotiations began with former opposition parties Gerakan and People's Progressive Party.

This led to the birth of Barisan Nasional (BN) in 1974.

It also saw the inclusion of Sabah and Sarawak-based political parties.

It was done out of a dire need to revamp the Alliance following its electoral performance in 1969.

The "grand coalition" of 11 parties, under Razak's stewardship, triumphed in the 1974 elections.

BN won 135 seats out of the 154 it contested, gaining overwhelming majority in Parliament. Umno won 62 seats.

Another pivotal move was Razak's introduction of the New Economic Policy (NEP). This was a social re-engineering and action programme formulated by the National Operation Council (NOC) that Razak headed.

NOC ran the country when Parliament was suspended following the riots.

NEP was drawn up to eradicate poverty, subsequently eliminating identification of race by their economic function and geographical location.

NEP's poUcy goals also led to redistribution of the economic pie. It saw economic progress being made and absolute poverty reduced by 1990.

NEP and the setting up of BN, saw not only Umno, but also the nation becoming stable during Razak's administration.

It was under his leadership that the country became the world's largest rubber producer.

It also saw Malaysia making forays into the electronics, as well as the oil and gas sectors.

These successes were attributed to Razak's "Red Book" development policy, on which the nation's foundation was built.

Sungai Petani Umno division permanent chairman Makbul Ilahi lauded Razak's achievements as the then Umno president and prime minister, as he championed the rights of Malays, who were in need of much economic leverage to escape poverty.

"Not only did Razak succeed in maintaining unity in Umno, but he also fought hard to better the lives of Malays in rural areas.

"His hard work and legacy in defending marginalised Malay communities as Umno president continues till today, as we can see non-urban areas remaining as Umno stronghold," he said.

He added that Malays were also able to progress due to Razak's initiatives, such as Federal Land Development Authority (Feida) and Federal Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (Felcra).

At the height of Razak's administration, Makbul said, Umno became a venerable party and the backbone of BN.

"Barisan Nasional was virtually rift-free and mutual respect was maintained between the parties, as Razak was known for his fair-mindedness and grassroots advocacy," he added.

Six years after holding office, Razak succumbed to leukaemia and died in London on Jan 14, 1976.

Following his death, Tun Hussein Onn, the son of Umno founder Datuk Sir Onn Jaafar, became the third prime minister and subsequently Umno's president.

Hussein, the sixth of Onn's 12 children, was heavily involved in Malaya's early political scene.

He was known for his dexterity and rigour, especially in matters involving unity and economic balance between the races.

After the 1977 Kelantan Emergen-

## Umno timeline



**February 1973**  
After emergency was declared in 1969, Parliament is restored and the rule of the National Operation Council ends.

**May 11, 1973**  
Umno's 25th anniversary is celebrated in Kuala Lumpur.

**August 1973**  
Umno deputy Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman dies, and Tun Hussein Onn becomes acting deputy president and deputy prime minister.

**January 17, 1974**  
A meeting is held with several political parties to discuss the concept of Barisan Nasional (BN).

**June 1, 1974**  
BN is officially registered.

**Aug 23, 1974**  
In the 4th General Election, BN wins 135 out of 154 seats. Umno secures all 62 seats it contests.

**Jan 24, 1976**  
Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein succumbs to leukaemia in London. Hussein takes over as prime minister and acting Umno president.

**March 5, 1976**  
Hussein's new cabinet line-up is formed. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (now Tun) is appointed as deputy prime minister.

**July 8, 1978**  
Umno wins 69 out of 74 seats it contests in the 5th General Election.

**September 1978**  
The Umno general assembly votes Hussein as party president, and Dr Mahathir as his deputy.

**May 1981**  
Hussein pulls out from contesting the Umno presidency.

**June 1981**  
Dr Mahathir becomes Umno president unopposed and Datuk Musa Hitam (now Tun) is deputy.

**July 1981**  
Hussein steps down as BN president and prime minister, due to ill health.

**April 24, 1987**  
At the Umno polls, Dr Mahathir defeats Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah with a majority of 43 votes to remain president.

**April 22, 1983**  
BN wins big at the 6th General Election, winning 132 out of 154 parliamentary seats. Umno wins 70 out of 75 seats it contests.

**July 25, 1987**  
A group of 11 Umno members file suit at the High Court to declare the April elections null and void.

**Feb 4, 1988**  
The High Court declares Umno illegal.

**Feb 13, 1988**  
Dr Mahathir files an application to register Umno as Umno Baru.

**Feb 16, 1988**  
Umno rejoins BN.

**Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad**

Umno president **Tun Abdul Razak Hussein** (right) at the 26th Umno general assembly. With him is his deputy, **Tun Hussein Onn**.

cy, state elections were held and BN won the Pas stronghold state after its 19-year rule. Hussein led Umno and BN to victory in the 5th General Election in 1978. It saw Umno winning 69 out of the 74 seats it contested.

As Razak's successor, Hussein had a tough task in choosing between Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (now Tun), Tun Muhammad Ghazali Shafie and former Malacca chief minister Tun Abdul Ghafar Baba as deputy prime minister.

It was not an easy decision for Hussein to make, but after six weeks, Dr Mahathir was appointed as his deputy.

In early 1981, Hussein underwent a coronary bypass.

Due to health concerns, he retired from politics and relinquished his post on July 17 of the same year.

Dr Mahathir assumed the post of prime minister at the age of 55. In his initial years as premier, Umno continued to prosper, with its candidates winning 70 out of the 75 seats contested in the 1982 General Election.

BN also won big, gaining 132 parliamentary seats out of the 154 it contested.

In inheriting the NEP, Dr Mahathir also actively pursued the

*Continued next page*



**PRAYER TIMES**  
Sajadah Bersejarah peribadikan IKHLAS  
Website: www.takaful-ikhlas.com.my  
Tel no: 03-2723 9999 Call centre: 03 2723 9696  
Faks no: 03-2723 9998  
TAKAFUL IKHLAS BERHAD (593075 U)  
(Wholly owned by MNRB Holdings Berhad)

|            | SUBUH | SYURUK | ZUHUR | ASAR | MAGRIB | ISYAK |
|------------|-------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| Malacca    | 5:39  | 7:01   | 1:02  | 4:25 | 7:01   | 8:15  |
| Penang     | 5:51  | 7:11   | 1:10  | 4:31 | 7:04   | 8:18  |
| K. Lumpur  | 5:44  | 7:05   | 1:05  | 4:27 | 7:01   | 8:15  |
| Johor Baru | 5:32  | 6:54   | 12:57 | 4:20 | 6:56   | 8:10  |
| Kuantan    | 5:37  | 6:58   | 12:59 | 4:22 | 6:57   | 8:11  |
| Ipoh       | 5:48  | 7:07   | 1:08  | 4:30 | 7:03   | 8:17  |