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An honour to work with Abdul Razak, says Ahmad Sarji

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Ahmad Sarji recalls his experience serving under the country's 2nd prime minister

by AZREEN HANI

IT WAS an honour to work with Tun Abdul Razak Hussein whose contributions remains solidly embedded in the nation until today, says Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid.

Recalling his experience serving under the country's second prime minister, Ahmad Sarji said: "Nearly 44 years ago, as a fledgling young MCS (Malaysian Civil Service) officer, I had the honour to work for one of the iconic great men of modern Malaysia, one of a small handful in our history whose imprint on the sands of time remains vivid.

"Tun Abdul Razak is a statesman I have long admired, whose qualities of simplicity, humanity, hard work and unceasing dedication to the interests of our people elicit from me unqualified praise and sincere acknowledgement," the Permodalan Nasional Bhd chairman said at the launch of the book he authored: "My Recollections of Tun Abdul Razak".



Pic by Hussein Shaharuddin

Najib (left) with Ahmad Sarji at the special commemorative seminar on Tun Abdul Razak 'Legacy of Leadership' in Kuala Lumpur

The book was launched by Abdul Razak's eldest son who is also the country's Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak.

"I am privileged to have this chance to mention the enormous contributions of Tun Abdul Razak to the making of our nation," Ahmad Sarji said.

On the book, Ahmad Sarji who was the chief secretary to the government from 1990 to 1996, said it was not a study, or a definitive assessment of

Abdul Razak.

However, the book outlines Abdul Razak's eight major achievements including transforming Malaysia from an "underdeveloped", "developing" or "emerging", into one of the great success stories of modern times.

"Tun Abdul Razak re-aligned Malaysian foreign policy so that neutrality and regional cooperation were its hallmarks," Ahmad Sarji said.

The former secretary general

of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry also described his appointment as Universiti Tun Razak chancellor is one of the highest recognitions or awards bestowed upon him.

He also thanked Najib for launching the book. Also present at the event were late Abdul Razak's family members, dignitaries, current and former leaders as well as former parliamentary secretary to Abdul Razak, Tan Sri Michael Chen.