



PERDANA LIBRARY
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION
NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	19 January 2016

Razak's death a personal loss, says Dr M in poignant blog tribute

NST- 19/1/2016

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad paid tribute to Tun Abdul Razak Hussein in a melancholic blog posting yesterday, describing the latter's death 40 years ago as a "personal loss".

Expressing his gratitude to Razak, Dr Mahathir said his return to Umno after being expelled from the party and political ascension were largely designed by the country's second prime minister.

"It is difficult to think that 40 years have passed since the demise of Razak, the much respected and beloved second prime minister of independent Malaysia.

"It is sad that he should be taken away from us so early. I am, of

course, particularly saddened because I owe everything to him.

"I was expelled from Umno and people who were expelled before me never returned. Their political careers were blighted," said Dr Mahathir, who was removed from the party in 1969 after calling for then prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman's resignation.

Reminiscing about his days under Razak's leadership, Dr Mahathir said the trust and closeness they shared earned the ire of some Umno senior leaders, and he was among the few who knew of Razak's struggle with leukaemia.

"He did not only allow me to return to the fold but subsequently

appointed me a full minister. I was described as Razak's blue-eyed boy, which angered many Umno stalwarts.

"As a doctor, I noticed early his deteriorating health. Before he left for the United Kingdom, at a function at Parliament House, he pulled me aside and told me he was suffering from leukaemia.

"He told me to speak to his doctor, Dr Stewart Macpherson. I did, and knew that the period of remission would get shorter and shorter.

"He would not be able to continue for long. Still I was shocked to hear of his demise," said Dr Mahathir.

Lauding the late leader as among those bent on tackling disparities in

the country, Dr Mahathir said Razak was the man responsible for the formulation of the New Economic Policy (NEP).

He said Razak also led Malaysia to break away from British Commonwealth's past traditions.

"Watching the TV documentary on his life and times, I cannot help but feel sad.

"Those were great days. Leaders then were dedicated, bent on developing the country and tackling the disparities in Malaysian society. It was Razak who introduced the NEP.

"He broke away from the apron-strings of the British Commonwealth past, and visited Russia and

China. The winds of change blew strongly (and) Malaysia truly lost a great leader.

"He could have made a real difference to the future of this country which he fought so hard for," said Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said he had thought his political career would draw to a close after Razak's death and the succession of Tun Hussein Onn as Malaysia's third prime minister.

"For me the loss is personal. Tun Hussein who succeeded him was never close to me and I thought that would be the end of my career. But it wasn't. It wasn't because Razak had spoken a good word for me to Hussein."