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Pak Lah releases autobiography

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Former PM enhanced Malaysia's integrity, says Sultan Nazrin

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, has paid tribute to former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for his efforts in enhancing integrity in this country.

He noted that one of the first things that Abdullah did as prime minister was to set up the Malaysian Institute of Integrity in 2004 and sought to establish a body now called the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission.

"Tun Abdullah also sought to strengthen what was formerly known as the Anti-Corruption Agency by empowering it further to become the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission," he said when launching the book *Being Abdullah Ahmad Badawi* written by former group chief editor of *The Star* Datuk Wong Sulong here yesterday.

Sultan Nazrin said the book, 498 pages of authorised biography, offers many lessons, one being from a chapter on Abdullah's resignation after the poor showing of Umno in the 2008 general election.

"His reason for resigning as he himself states, were simple – he could face off his challengers in a bitter fight and probably win through the power of his incumbency but had he done that, he would



Memories in words: (From left) Sultan Nazrin and Abdullah holding a copy of 'Being Abdullah Ahmad Badawi – The Authorised Biography' at Sime Darby Convention Centre in Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur. Looking on are Dr Ahmad Zahid and Wong.

have inherited, had he won, or he would have left behind, had he lost, a fractured and divided nation and party. Therefore, he chose to resign.

"He notched up his successes and is frank about where he misjudged and where he made mistakes. There is much to learn from this book and learn we should," Sultan Nazrin said.

The book also looks back to Abdullah's courtship years of first wife Tun Endon Mahmood and marriage with second wife Tun Jeanne Abdullah.

Wong said he wished to give the public a better understanding of Abdullah, a misunderstood leader.

"Hopefully, it will be able to show some genuine aspects of him which the public has ignored when assessing him," he told reporters after the book launch.

Also present were Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Jeanne, and Wong's wife Datin Dorothy Wong.

"He is very quiet and unassuming, he doesn't want to take credit for a lot of the things he achieved so to get him to speak of them was not easy," Wong said when asked about his biggest challenge in writing the book.

Abdullah said the book, which contains anecdotes from his closest friends and colleagues, had put his heart at ease.

He added that the book was a tell-all about his views, thoughts, and years as the prime minister.

"In it are stories about my thoughts, my efforts in politics, as well as the things that need to be implemented.

"There are also insights from my friends," he said.

Watch the video
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