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'RAZAK HAD DESIRE TO EXCEL'

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He wanted to take country to greater heights, says friend

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IF Tun Abdul Razak Hussein is the pioneer of the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda), it is fair to describe Raja Tan Sri Muhammad Alias Raja Muhammad Ali as his visionary successor.

The duo are known as the pillars of Felda. They found the middle ground between being passionate about the endeavour and being efficient in accomplishing tasks to benefit Malaysians.

Reminiscing about his friendship with Razak, Alias said one of the most compelling reasons why Razak was loved was because he made it a point to forge personal ties with those around him.

He said whether it was his staff or villagers in Felda settlements, Razak laid the foundation for Felda's growth by building lasting bonds and winning the hearts of many.

"Razak took a personal interest in Felda projects, so he kept everybody on their toes. He was very close to his staff, knowing them personally by name.



Raja Tan Sri Muhammad Alias Raja Muhammad Ali says Tun Abdul Razak Hussein had good judgment. PIC BY AMIRUDIN SAHIB

"I believe he had a good sense about people. He had good judgment in choosing the right people for the right job, which is why he was so successful."

Alias joined the civil service in 1958, just two years after Felda was formed, as a result of Razak's dream to create a better future for the poverty-stricken population.

He said hailing from the then rural town of Pekan, Razak knew

first hand the living conditions in rural areas.

He said this strengthened Razak's resolve to improve the standard of living and education of Malaysians.

He said Razak had a desire to excel, and rallied people in the civil service to support his cause.

"He was a true and dedicated leader, who toiled tirelessly and honestly in providing exemplary leadership in nation building.



TUN RAZAK FOUNDATION

"He was always at the forefront coalescing efforts and energies in establishing a nation that would be the pride of its citizens, rich and poor alike.

"He imbued the spirit of togetherness and the need to support one another in our march towards nationhood."

In short, Alias said, Razak was the pride of the nation simply because he wanted to bring the country to greater heights.

Other than his exemplary work at the helm of Felda, Alias described Razak as gentle, not robust, and always mindful of others.

"He never hurt people's pride and feelings. He always provides firm and strong guidance to colleagues and subordinates.

"He was widely respected. In a

nutshell, he was forever caring and compassionate."

Alias said a leader of that stature should be emulated, not just because of his service, but also his pleasant demeanour.

He said because of Razak, Malaysia was able to transform from an undeveloped country to a developing one, and was on track towards becoming a developed nation.

He said if Razak was alive to see Malaysia today, he would have been proud and delighted with the country's progress and achievements, especially with regards to the improved standard of living.

"He would acknowledge the contributions made by the country's leaders, both past and present, for their hard work and astute leadership in bringing the country to where it is today.

"He would have wished to see the concept of unity in diversity fully entrenched in our society, and the culture of respect to one another be perpetuated."

Alias started his service as Felda chairman in 1979, cementing his commitment with the venture until 2001.

Felda's successes today are testimony to Razak's unflagging efforts. He is not only eternally remembered as Malaysia's Father of Development, but also as a passionate, gentle individual who simply loved his country.