

Lecture hall dedicated to Tun Razak

Second PM commemorated at Oxford University's BSG

pg. 13

The Star - 24/11/2019

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's second prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein has been commemorated at the Blavatnik School of Government (BSG) at Oxford University with a lecture hall being renamed the Tun Razak Lecture Theatre.

Perak Ruler Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah said the commemoration of Tun Razak, who was one of Malaysia's founding fathers, was fitting due to his passion for good governance and deep concern for the wellbeing of the disadvantaged.

"Tun Razak would undoubtedly have felt at home here at BSG.

"There is so much that chimes between the BSG's stated vision of a world better led, a world better served and a world better governed and Tun Razak's own vision for his country; and within this lecture theatre, that same vision will no doubt be instilled in the minds and hearts of many generations of leaders to come," he said in his inauguration address statement sent to the media to mark the renaming of the lecture hall.

“It seems especially fitting that a hall of learning should be named in memory of a man who had such foundational impact upon the education of Malaysians.

Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah

Sultan Nazrin gave the inauguration address at the renaming of the lecture hall in BSG on Friday.

Tun Razak was Malaysia's prime minister from 1970 to 1976.

Sultan Nazrin said in Tun Razak's capacity as the Education Minister in 1955, he drafted the Razak Report which became the basis of the education system.

"Indeed, it seems especially fitting that a lecture theatre – a hall of learning – should be named in memory of a man who had such foundational impact upon the education of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Malaysians," he said.

Sultan Nazrin also noted many of Tun Razak's contributions, among which included taking part in negotiations with the British for



Man of integrity: Tun Razak believed in good governance.

Malayan independence, establishing programmes and institutions to alleviate poverty, nurturing talent and promoting racial harmony through the National Consultative Council following the racial riots in May 1969.

"There are also vital moral qualities that the greatest leaders must possess, and Tun Razak demonstrated these in abundance. He was utterly dedicated to integrity and honesty in public office, and shunned all manner of corruption. He was obsessed, for example, with ensuring that not a penny of government funding was used to pay for his personal needs," he said.

Today, Sultan Nazrin said Malaysians affectionately remember Tun Razak for his sense of duty and dedication, thus, earning him the sobriquet Bapa Pembangunan, the Father of Malaysia's Development.

"It is my sincere hope that the achievements and ideals of that extraordinary man, Tun Razak – now commemorated in the name of this lecture theatre – will serve to inspire all those who are yet to pass through this prestigious institution, to become the leaders, the visionaries and the public servants of tomorrow," he said.

Sultan Nazrin is an Oxford University alumnus, having graduated with honours in his bachelor's degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He also serves as a Trustee of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies at Oxford University.

According to Oxford University's BSG dean Prof Ngairé Woods, two foundations made philanthropic donations to the school to honour Tun Razak's legacy, the Noah Foundation and the Tun Razak Foundation.