

# PM's premier lessons



TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

“(He) unified a nation of different races and introduced a unique approach which is not found in other countries, which is the sharing of power between the leaders of different races.”



ABDUL RAZAK

“He had filled the nation's independence with all sorts of development to *menjayakan* its independence.”



HUSSEIN ONN

“Tun Hussein Onn's National Unit Trust or Amanah Saham Scheme is still being carried on today, successfully encouraging savings among Malaysians of all income levels and races.”



DR MAHATHIR

“We did not only see rapid development and first class infrastructure under his leadership, but also constructive ideas that are still fresh in our minds.”

## ■ By Koh Lay Chin

PUTRAJAYA, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today paid a heartfelt tribute to his four predecessors, saying he had been “particularly blessed to have had the opportunity to serve directly” under them.

“On my path towards becoming Prime Minister, I have learned many things along the way. One thing that I have learned over the years is that leaders are not necessarily born, they are made,” Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said during the launch of the Perdana Leadership Foundation here.

Addressing a crowd that included former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the family members of former Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein and Tun Hussein Onn, he said he had learned the qualities of good leadership, such as integrity, accountability and patience, from the four leaders.

“The wisdom and experience I gained under their expert guidance and mentorship have been a powerful source of inspiration and a resource to help me through my duties and responsibilities as Prime Minister.”

Abdullah said he realised that not all Malaysians had had the unique honour and opportunity to serve and learn from these four leaders.

“As such, I am particularly pleased that this foundation, which is dedicated to the study of Malaysian leaders and Prime Ministers as well as to leadership development, has been set up.”

Abdullah spoke of the four former Prime Ministers and their individual achievements and contributions to the nation.

• Of Tunku Abdul Rahman, he said Malaysia's first Prime Minister would forever be loved and remembered as *Bapa Kemerdekaan* (Father of Independence).

“He established a Government which has been so successful, a Government which represents the participation of different races of Malaysia. This is special, and has brought about unity in a multi-racial society that has ensured stability.”

“The Tunku may have walked the path of India in seeking peaceful disengagement from our colonial masters, but Malaysia was unique in forming a multi-racial Government.”

• Of second Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak, he said the *Bapa Pembangunan* (Father of Development)

would always be remembered for addressing the economic and social inequities that divided the nation, by pushing for poverty eradication and restructuring society.

Abdullah also said Razak had launched the National Education Policy which had been so important to developing the education system for the country's children.

“(He) created the national operations room to monitor developments across the country, while his rural development plan won many accolades and has been duplicated in other developing countries.”

• Of Tun Hussein Onn, *Bapa Perpaduan* (Father of Unity), Abdullah said he would always be remembered for prioritising national unity.

“There were many changes in the Constitution at that time, and this is not usually done in other countries, but we must understand why the amendments were done, which were for the future of our country and for its development,” Abdullah said.

• Of Dr Mahathir, Abdullah said the *Bapa Modernisasi* (Father of Modernisation) had spearheaded Malaysia's industrialisation and increased the country's international profile.

“He gave the nation its first national car, a world-class airport and the world's tallest twin towers, among others, and has set a course for us to become a fully developed nation by the year 2020.”

Abdullah said Malaysians now had to understand and have a chance to learn about these leaders so that they could be an inspiration for their own careers.

“The stories of what they have faced and overcome, as well as their vision for Malaysia's future, are valuable lessons for us, the present and future stewards of Malaysia, as we go forth to chart our destiny,” he said.

At the launch today, the former Prime Ministers were commemorated with sculptures that were placed on separate pedestals.

Dr Mahathir, the Tunku's son, Tunku Ahmad Nerang Putra, Abdul Razak's widow, Tun Rahah Mohd Noah, and son Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, and Hussein's son, Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein placed the sculptures.

A poem entitled *Tangan-Tangan Manis Memimpin*, written by Datuk A. Samad Said, was also read out in recognition of the four Prime Ministers.

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## Perdana library completed

PUTRAJAYA, Tues. — The new Perdana Leadership Foundation, a treasure-trove of materials by and on Malaysia's former leaders, is complete.

But it needs more to become the premier research and learning institution on Malaysian leadership, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said he encouraged more Malaysians to come forward to pledge their support and hoped global institutions would form resource-sharing collaborations with the foundation.

“I believe the foundation has made

a solid start towards this end by working with existing institutions to collect, digitise and archive materials important to our nation, and have these resources made available to the Malaysian public via the Internet,” he said at the foundation's launching today.

The foundation, the brainchild of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is entirely a private sector initiative.

“The Perdana library needs to build up its collections,” the foundation's board of trustees chairman, Tan Sri Azman Hashim, said.



**SOLID START:** Abdullah watching Dr Mahathir place a commemorative plaque at the launch of the foundation yesterday.