

**Tun Razak Dedicates Life for Nation, Despite Suffering from Leukaemia**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- Despite being diagnosed with a terminal illness of leukemia in 1969, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein continued to work as hard as possible for the country, said his son, Datuk Ahmad Johari.

Ahmad Johari, 62, the second of five siblings, said his father persevered and lived longer to look after the rakyat, despite doctors giving him only two years to live after being diagnosed with the illness.

Tun Abdul Razak succeeded Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj as Prime Minister on Sept 22, 1970. He died on Jan 14, 1976.

"He had wanted very much to live longer. There were still so much he wanted to do.

"To be Prime Minister and to look after the interest of the rakyat, while in the grip of a debilitating illness must have been hard to bear. He must have had superhuman courage to cope with it," Ahmad Johari told Bernama.

The soft spoken Ahmad Johari, who read law, like his father, is a senior partner in a major law firm in Kuala Lumpur.

Ahmad Johari said his father wanted to do, among others, to launch the third country's five-year economic plan, attend the ASEAN Summit in Bali, resolve the political conflicts following the prosecution of Datuk Harun Idris (former Selangor Menteri Besar), as well as to resolve the communist insurgency.

Ahmad Johari, who obtained his law degree from the University of Kent, United Kingdom, recalled his last moment with his father.

It was when Tun Abdul Razak went to London in December 1975 and was admitted to London hospital the following month.

He was 21 at that time and was in his final year preparing for his law examinations.

He said his last conversation with his father was between Jan 12 and 13 at the hospital, where his father asked him to buy a new suit.

Tun Abdul Razak asked him to get his briefcase and gave him 40 pounds, he added.

Ahmad Johari said he spent the money on a new suit a month later and wore it to important occasions until it no longer fit him.

"That was his last gift to me," he said, adding that he missed him still.

Ahmad Johari was thankful that his father had lived his life to the full and managed to implement policies which brought much benefit to the people.

Tun Abdul Razak, who was born 94 years ago, was known as "Bapa Pembangunan" (Father of Development) for his contribution in bringing development to the nation, including rural development by setting up FELDA.

It was Tun Abdul Razak, who in the aftermath of the 1969 race riots, infamously known as 'May 13', mooted the idea of Barisan Nasional (BN) to replace 'Perikatan' so that all political parties representing all ethnics in Malaysia could unite under one coalition, thus enabling them to focus on nation building and less on politicking.

Tun Abdul Razak died at the age of 53 and he was only into the fifth year of implementing key policies introduced post 1969, like the New Economic Policy (NEP) and the National Education Policy that led to the conversion of the medium of instruction in national schools from English to Bahasa Malaysia.

At the international front, Tun Abdul Razak was instrumental in the establishment of a diplomatic relation with China in 1974, the first member of ASEAN to do so.

Tun Abdul Razak and his wife Tun Rahah Noah had five sons and the eldest is the current Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib.

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