

Bernama Records Appreciation To Three Former Info Ministers

KUALA LUMPUR, May 22 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) recorded appreciation at its Golden Jubilee celebration to three former ministers of information for their contributions to the media and communications industry.

It presented the special awards to Special Advisor to the Malaysian Government on Socio-Cultural Matters, Tan Sri Dr Rais Yatim, eminent journalist Tan Sri Zainuddin Maidin and former Umno secretary-general, the late Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat.

Rais, 75, who hails from Kampung Gagu, Jelebu, Negeri Sembilan, is known for his dedication and contribution through various efforts to elevate arts, language and heritage at the national, regional and international levels.

Rais, who has served as information, communication and culture minister; foreign minister; culture, arts and heritage minister; and menteri besar of Negeri Sembilan, had a close relationship with Bernama when he was information, communication and culture minister from 2009 to 2013.

The father of four children held the post of information minister in 1984 and between 2009 and 2013 served as information, communication and culture minister in a new cabinet under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Rais, the recipient of the 'Tokoh Buku Negara' award in 2010 for his contribution to writing and the book publishing industry, is the sixth president of the International Islamic University of Malaysia.

Zainuddin, 78, who was the minister of information from 2006 to 2008, is synonymous with the world of journalism and was close to Bernama during his career of five decades with Utusan Melayu.

The former editor-in-chief of Utusan Melayu, popularly known by his pen name ZAM, started out in journalism as a stringer for Utusan Melayu in Alor Setar in 1951. He was appointed a reporter 10 years later.

He served as the Utusan Melayu representative in London in 1975-1976 before becoming the editor-in-chief of the newspaper for almost a decade and then ventured into politics.

Zainuddin, who was president of the National Union of Journalists in the 1970s and president of the National Press Club from 1984 to 1989, was a prolific writer whose books include 'Mahathir Di Sebalik Tabir', 'Tun Razak: Jejak Bertapak Seorang Patriot', 'Wira Tak Di Dendang' and 'Saya Bukan Menteri: Memoir Wartawan Negara'.

The late Mohamed, father of Deputy Home Minister Datuk Nur Jazlan, had served under five prime ministers and UMNO presidents during the four decades that he was in government and politics.

He had also held the post of UMNO secretary-general.

Mohamed, who was born in 1938, had served as information minister twice, from 1978 to 1982 under the premiership of Tun Hussein Onn and from 1987 to 1999 under the premiership of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

As the minister of information, one of the programmes he introduced was 'Setia Bersama Rakyat' (Semarak), in the 1990s, which was aimed at enhancing love for and loyalty to the country.

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