

IDEAS Founding President says Transformasi Nasional 50 (TN50) has to be inclusive and non-partisan in order to succeed

Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS)

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By Admin

Kuala Lumpur, 8 February 2017 – The Transformasi Nasional 50 initiative (TN50) is right to focus on the young but the process should be run by a more trusted body, says YAM Tunku Zain al-Abidin Tuanku Muhriz, President of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS).

Speaking at IDEAS' 7th Anniversary Dinner which also commemorates Bapa Malaysia Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra al-Haj's birthday, Tunku Zain al-Abidin said, "Partisan interests aside, we have to acknowledge that over the years we as Malaysians have failed to uphold the original spirit and intention behind the Federal Constitution. Unfortunately, vested interests have taken over and the same old people are posited as the solution to the problem, when they were the ones who caused the problems in the first place".

"This is why I applaud the Government's initiative to focus on the younger generation with TN50. We definitely need more younger people who can offer fresh ideas to Malaysia. But of course the reality that we have today is that the system is extremely difficult for younger leaders with different and new visions for the country to rise up in rank for even the newer political parties. TN50 in this regard, can help to address this problem," explained Tunku Abidin.

"There are two caveats to TN50's execution however. First, as much as we need to gather inputs and suggestions from the younger generation, we must also make this a truly inclusive initiative for all Malaysians. The youths have a lot of enthusiasm and energy but this should be coupled with the experience and wisdom of older Malaysians who have had years of experience in dealing with real life challenges. That way TN50 will achieve its aims of building a vision for all Malaysians from all walks of life," commented Tunku Abidin.

"TN50 must respond to everyone in the national conversation, rather than handpicked audiences and pre-planted questions. Otherwise, it will just become another large and an expensive public relations exercise," concluded Tunku Abidin.

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