

TUNKU ABDUL AZIZ

SOMEONE HAD TO SAY IT...



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TUNKU ABDUL AZIZ

He is best known for his robust advocacy against corruption not only in Malaysia, but also globally. He was for some years a vice-chairman of the Board of Transparency International. In Malaysia he led a group of like-minded individuals to set up Transparency International Malaysia at a most difficult time - when Dr. Mahathir, well known for his ambivalence towards corruption in public life, was prime minister. Tunku Aziz believes that where ethical standards are in place, corrupt behaviour can be checked.

As a measure of his standing in the international anti-corruption community, he was appointed in 2006 as Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General, and in that capacity established the United Nations Ethics office in New York, putting in train the whistle blower protection programme and the declaration of interests (assets) programme involving some two thousand top officials around the world as a first step.

He keeps to a hectic schedule writing a weekly column for Sin Chew News and an occasional piece for the Malaysian Insider. He travels overseas a great deal speaking on corruption and good governance issues.



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First Edition, March 2011

Published by
Research for Social Advancement (REFSA)
4A, Jalan Sepadu, Taman United,
Off Jalan Klang Lama,
58200 Kuala Lumpur
Email. info@refsa.org
Website: http: www.refsa.org

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Cover Photo by Danny Lim
Cover Design & Content Format by PM Wang
Font type Times Font Size 11
Printed by
Vinlin Press Sdn Bhd (25680-X)
No 2, Jalan Meranti Permai 1,
Meranti Permai Industrial Park,
Batu 15, Jalan Puchong,
47100 Puchong,
Selangor Darul Ehsan.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Data Pengkatalogan-dalam Penerbitan

Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim, 1934-

Someone had to say it. . Tunku Abdul Aziz.

ISBN 978-967-5942-04-4 (Soft Cover)

ISBN 978-967-5942-08-2 (Hard Cover)

1. Political culture--Malaysia 2 Malaysia--Politics and government.

I. Judul.

339.52209595

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***This book is dedicated to all,
who aspire to a new Malaysia.
I also dedicate, with much love,
this book to my daughters,
Helena, Zelena and Amelia.***





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FOREWORD

Having contributed a foreword to Tunku's earlier book of his published writings, I would have thought that I would have been let off the hook, but again my weak resistance was eroded by his persuasive desperation for a piece by an innocuous bystander in the powerplay of socio-politics, governance and the lack of fairplay - and incompetence in administration. The current volume of 38 essays cover a wide range of concerns, all addressed by the author's inimitable turn of language and sharp commentary towards putting things right in our country..

My previous foreword had characterised Tunku's critical stances, but this time round I may have to delve into the changes in perceptions that may have arisen from his recent status as an appointed Senator, as most of the pieces were written after his elevation. The essays continue to tackle issues in his special style, perhaps usually subtle enough to escape the total anger or rancour of his targets. His views however continue to need further fortification and amplification as many matters have yet to be put right. He has already received positive response from readers, but much of his constructive critiques remain to be understood or accepted.

It may be suggested that Tunku would now be in the position to carry his views and reformist precepts into the august upper house, where his presence and concerns could be

presented formally to bring about changes and improvements in governance and judiciary practices - Especially where all political souls appear to support freedom from corruption etc. The Senate is surely constitutionally charged with the noble task of attaining good governance, and the appointment of fresh personages of sterling conscience will be significant in making the Senate more effective in seeing to the checks and balances, hopefully above partisan politics.

Knowing Tunku, and notwithstanding his political affiliation and duties, I would observe that in his essays he appears to remain quite independent, holding on to personal convictions - towards statesmanship in national affairs, appropriate indeed for a Senator. In the main the principles he upholds would seem to be quite universal - except to opportunists and unthinking card-carriers.

I suspect that few would read forewords anyway so as to plunge directly into the compilation of essays with such tantalising titles, which will make their own case and impact - and even rile where relevant. Hopefully the latest book will find its way to many bedsides - as cure for insomnia or to contribute to it.

Penang, May 2010

Datuk Seri Lim Chong Keat

Quatercentenary Visiting Fellow (1995),

Emmanuel College, Cambridge.