

Bukan Kerana Pangkat: Tun Dr Ismail dan Masanya (Malay Version)

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Opinion

Tun Dr. Ismail stood as a pillar of fortitude under the dual leadership of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Abdul Razak, during a very difficult and challenging era in Malaysian politics. During the period of Malaysia's political turbulence, he was the only voice that dares to stand against the tide of extremism and prejudice that has hit. On the regional and international arena, he diligently strive to establish regional economic groupings, campaigned incessantly so that Southeast Asia has become a region free of great power politics, and has several times revealed that the relationship between Malaysia and Singapore should be placed on the right keel. During the unrest in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Abdul Razak had to call him back out of retirement to serve the country. Tun Dr. Ismail is the symbol of unity in the hearts of all Malaysians following the tragedy of racism, 1969. It was he who gave the key beliefs and expectations, so that Malaysians can tread new stage in the relationship between the communities. Tun Dr. Ismail greatest service is to make sure the country remains intact and strong turbulence after a riot broke out from 13th May incident.

The book is written by a collection of personal papers of the late Tun Dr. Ismail Alhaj bin Datuk Haji Abdul Rahman. His collection of documents is found in a rather scattered at his home after he died on August 2, 1973. His eldest son, Taufik understand his responsibility that cannot be avoided, namely collecting and preserving the papers in order to allow one day to narrate his father story, and revealed Malaysia that become his ambition. The document relied on this biography is the first, autobiography that he had not prepared and published entitled "Drifting into Politics" written by Tun Dr. Ismail after his resignation from the government in mid-1967 and in subsequent years plus two records only. Second, the collection of letters kept throughout his life, which though not exhaustive can provide interesting information about his life, his companion and his character. Third, a series of reports that are written between September 1957 and January 1959 for viewing by Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman during Ismail became the first Ambassador of Malaya to Washington and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. These three groups of private paper are the core of his collection.

Tun Dr. Ismail is not a lot of mouth, although during recording his own life. Not a lot of exaggeration in his work. Therefore many complementary studies need to be done to draw the background picture to help the ordinary reader, to collect personal details about his

life, and to verify the various events mentioned in his personal papers. Relevant information can be gathered from the archives of The New Straits Times Press (NSTP) Malaysia which keeps clippings about Tun Dr. Ismail. The National Archives in Kew, England helping the author work through pile of documents stored about Malaya politics in the 1950s and other relevant materials, including reports of Ismail two or three visits to the United Kingdom Finally, many personal details worthwhile can be achieved through interviews with Tun Dr Ismail family members, friends, acquaintances and staff. The task of the author is to collect this information in order to compile all of which are easy to read and based on facts. Although the tone of this book is a balance between scientific writing and storytelling biography, the author tries as much as possible to avoid the drama.

His life reflecting early experiences of Malaysia and can be said that his departure could be a harbinger of many faint dream of the past. A fact that remains is his action and mind become a memory for Malaysians about the hope and ideals of the most respected freedom fighter, a region thinker that is the most practical and forward looking. Due to the barren inquiry about Tun Dr. Ismail and his important role in the formation and restructuring of Malaysia, this book is an attempt to fill this void. New perspectives are given about the struggle for independence, relations between Malaysia and Singapore, the origins of Southeast Asia region philosophy, conflict in UMNO party, MCA and UMNO relationships, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein health problems, May 13 riots and the New Economic Policy. In addition to new facts about the history of Malaysia and Singapore, the book also reveals the process of eliminating colonization and development of the country.

This book reveals the face painting of Tun Dr. Ismail, the values he stood for, his private life and the public, as well as his professional relationship with contemporary figures, both in Malaysia and Singapore. Tun Dr. Ismail's biography is the first work in a series of books that planned by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies about the First Generation Leaders of Southeast Asia. A book like this will help highlight the efforts and contributions of figures relating to the formation of modern Southeast Asia. Student or political scholar of Southeast Asian should appreciate his mind more closely, because Tun Dr. Ismail far ahead of his time. Society recommended reading this book, especially the generation of Malaysian who were born after Tun Dr. Ismail died. By reading this book will give better understand their own country, and more appreciative of the dedication of this leading figure.