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 strives 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 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 countries. 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 kept throughout his life, which though not exhaustive can provide information on 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 Asia 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.