

Book on a national icon

Abdullah: Raja Mohar example of a towering Malaysian

Star p8 N4 20.3.07

KUALA LUMPUR: The great contribution of the late Raja Tun Mohar Raja Badiozaman to national development will inspire the younger generation, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Prime Minister said he believed many people would be able to gain much insight from reading a pictorial biography called *Raja Tun Mohar Raja Badiozaman: A Gracious Prince – The Pride of the Nation* about the late Raja Tun Mohar, who was an example of a “towering Malaysian” and an icon of the civil service.

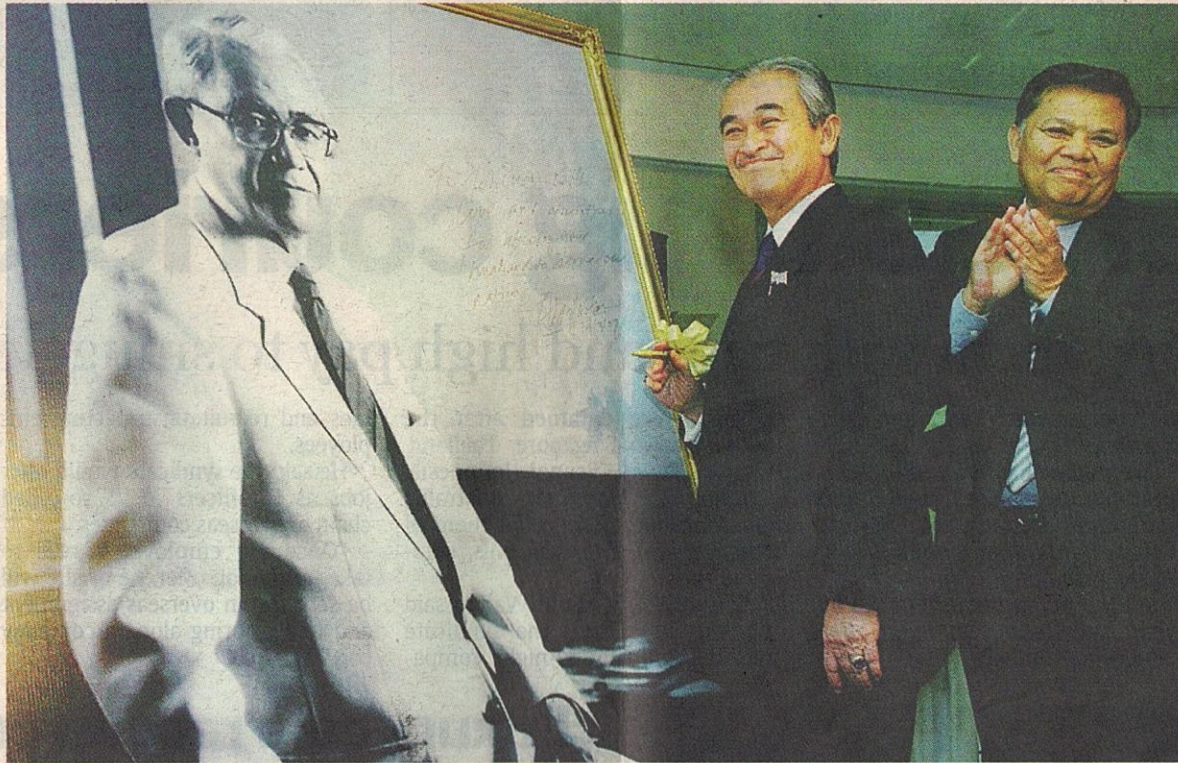
Abdullah said the late Raja Tun Mohar was a prince who was known for his exemplary conduct, discipline, humility, selfless dedication, love and sincerity to the people and the nation.

“Without exaggeration I would say that his contribution to the race and nation was truly great and effective. He was a great man. He was a prince but with the heart of a common man,” he said at the launch of the biography at Petronas Gallery in Suria KLCC here yesterday.

The biography was mooted by the Malaysian Humanitarian Foundation, of which the late Tun Raja Mohar was chairman for more than six years till his demise in 2003.

Abdullah said he felt privileged to be given the opportunity to launch the biography to pay tribute to the late Raja Tun Mohar who was actually a *pahlawan bangsa* (nationalist).

“I can’t regard myself as his friend because he was much more senior than me but *alhamdulillah* (God willing) I was able to sit in several government committees which were helmed by him.



My hero: Abdullah signing a poster of Raja Mohar after the launch of a book on him in Kuala Lumpur yesterday as Malaysian Humanitarian Foundation chairman Tan Sri Dr Mazlan Ahmad looks on. — Bernama

“One thing I will remember till today is that he was highly respected and admired. His presence at various committee meetings always gave a sense of confidence to the members because he gave his attention to people’s views and he gave his own brilliant views to achieve the objectives of the committees.”

Born in Kuala Kangsar, Perak, the late Raja Mohar had an impressive record of four decades in the civil

service and had served as Special Economic Adviser under three Prime Ministers – Tun Abdul Razak, Tun Hussein Onn and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad between 1972 and 1988.

Upon leaving public service in 1988, he joined the corporate world and became the longest-serving chairman of Malaysia Airlines for 18 years, helped spur the growth of Danaharta and provided direction for the second

national car project, Perodua.

He left behind wife Toh Puan Norella Talib, three children and nine grandchildren who were also present at the event.

The book, which details the many facets of his life in colourful prose, with tributes penned by the later Raja Mohar’s friends, colleagues and family, will be sold for charitable purposes at RM50 each (soft cover) and between RM250 and RM1,000 (hard cover).