The Tunku is at present the only member of the Kedah Order of Merit, to which no more than three persons can belong at the same time. In 1960 he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership. He has been awarded honorary degress by Cambridge University, the University of Malaya, the University of Sydney (Australia) and the Araneta University of the Philippines.

Tunku Abdul Rahman, a devout Moslon, made a pilgrammage to Mecca in 1958. He is a keen sportsman, with special enthusiasm for soccer and horse-racing. He is extremely interested in gardening, especially the growing of orchids, and in movie photography, and has written a popular historical play.

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6