

TUN ABDUL RAZAK

Tun Razak was born on March 11, 1922, at Pulau Keladi, Pekan, Pahang. He was educated at Malay College, Kuala Kangsar and Raffles College, Singapore.

During the Japanese occupation he joined Force 136, Malay Resistance Movement "Wataniah", and held the rank of captain in that Force. After its disbandment in 1945, he was appointed Assistant District Officer in Raub, Pahang.

In 1947 he was awarded a scholarship to study law in England at Lincoln's Inn. He was called to the Bar in 1950.

In 1949 he attended the first World Assembly of Youth as representative from the Federation of Malaya.

He was elected the leader of the United Malaya National Organization (UNMO), Youth Section, as one of its vice-presidents. In 1951 he was elected Deputy President of UMNO and has held that position since then.

In 1951 he was appointed an unofficial member of the Federal Legislative Council and served until 1955.

In June 1955 he resigned from the Civil Service to contest the first Federal Elections and was elected to the constituency of Semantan in Pahang, his home state.

During the period from 1955 until independence he was Minister of Education. He was a member of the Merdeka (Independence) Mission to London and was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence on Independence Day on August 31, 1957.

In February 1959 Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman resigned from the post of Prime Minister to devote his full time to campaigning for the General Elections as head of his political party. Tun Abdul Razak served as Prime Minister during that period until after the victory of his party,