

Harimau Malaya: Biografi Tengku Mahmood Mahyiddeen (Malay Version)

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Commentary

The title 'Tiger of Malaya' was given to two foreign leaders who came to power in Malaya. In early 1942, General Tomoyuki Yamashita, commander of the Japanese Army in Malaya dominated 'cassava era' during the Second World War. With the nickname 'Tiger of Malaya', he turned out to be feared. In early 1952, Sir Gerald Templar appears also as the British High Commissioner. He was admired for his intelligence in setting strategies to abolish communist terrorists. He is also nicknamed the Tiger of Malaya. But the title is not as accurate as the two leaders who had led the government are not a native of Malaya really fight to defend Malaya, but they are occupiers. Another figure associated with the nickname 'Tiger of Malaya', Tengku Mahmood Mahyiddeen is the son of the local indigenous people, it was natural that the title given to him.

He is a successful businessman, a social critic, defender of the Malay community, education leader, education administrator, military leader and political figure. Tengku Mahmood Mahyiddeen recognized as a successful founding, exploring and pioneering leader in various fields of knowledge, coupled with a credible influence and leadership made him feared and admired by British officials and political leaders of other countries, especially during the Second World War and after the war. During that time the struggle for independence was echoed in particular in the countries of Southeast Asia, the former Japanese colony. Tengku Mahmood Mahyiddeen at that time was considered a statesman and leader of Malaya.

Although Tengku Mahmood Mahyiddeen is the youngest son of the late Tengku Abdul Kadir Kamaruddeen, the last King of Patani, but he grew up among the people. This exposure led to a more open and liberal thinking. He took Western elements to emulate, but does not waive the East and the Islamic faith into his handle. His view and attitude made him more acceptable by the British administration that still gripped Malaya. Grew up in a life that is not controlled by the royal family, Tengku Mahmood Mahyiddeen find something new to defend the Malays who had knotted off with life in an occupied country.

The first World War and the recession of the world economy shows the backwardness and great economic oppression on the Malay race, especially in the East Coast that is rich in poverty. It was then that he was given the opportunity to engage in Kelantan public service because of his critical thinking and fostering the development of the community. Kelantan has been replaced Patani as a center of the Malays community civilization. When the Second World War broke out, he was one of the first Malay to be in the frontline against the Japanese that launched an attack against Malaya. Then with the British army he retreated to Singapore before he found refuge in the Indian subcontinent that became the main base of the Malay political leaders at the moment.

After Japan's defeat in the Second World War and the people of the Malay states were united and passionate about fighting for independence, especially when the declaration of the establishment of the Malayan Union divulged, Tengku Mahmood Mahyiddeen facing another struggle. A struggle that became a continuation of the struggle of his father or ancestors who defended the sovereignty of the Malay Kingdom of Patani or Patani Islamic struggle that are already hundreds of years old.

Indeed, too many contributions from Tengku Mahmood Mahyiddeen to Kelantan and Patani. Before the war, he was instrumental in the formation of Kelantan state education system. During the war, he was stranded in India planning efforts and set the pace for the recapture of Malaya from Japanese occupation. After the war, he was involved in Patani politics in the south of Thailand. He intends to merge Patani with Malaya. In a very short age, he was just 46 years old, various efforts and initiatives have been doing. In life, he used full time to look after the welfare of his people who were under subjection of Siam and British through the fight in education, military and political [1].

No one in his family who inherited his stature as a true warrior and a respected figure. One of his brother's son, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen follow in his footsteps and became a national political figure and was appointed Minister. But Tengku Mahmood Mahyiddeen name disappeared from the coverage of the country's history, a far cry his name to be listed in the history books. Which remains immortalized is a school named Mahmood Mahyiddeen High School in Pasir Pekan, Kota Bharu, Kelantan. Two Western writers give opinion about him. J. C. Bottoms in 1954 declared him as "A man of great personal charm and happy disposition, he drew around him a wide circle of friends of all races. By his untimely death the Federation of Malaya has lost a loyal and brilliant citizen and his friends a charming and lovable companion". Hugh Wilson in 1992 also stated "He was withall, a man born to serve but who could not take leadership of his people; chivalrous, volatile, he was a man for the people, fighting windmills for their cause".

The birth of the book is expected to be able to restore the memory of the current Malaysia communities towards the leader of freedom fighters who defend the sanctity of Islam, the Malays and the dignity of the occupied homeland. His determination should emulate by the current generation to show how bitter and thorny obstacles to be overcome by earlier fighters before Malaysia obtained its independence. For Patani Malay descent, Tengku Mahmood Mahyiddeen struggle that is recorded in this book became a symbol of the struggle for independence from dripping sweat, blood and tears.

References

1. (2009) Penerbit Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Selangor pp: 184.