



IN BRIEF

Tun Hussein Onn was born on 12th February 1922 to Johor's Chief Minister, Dato' Onn Jaafar, and Datin Halimah Hussein. The Johor Bahru-born received his early education in Singapore, and later at the English College in Johor Bahru.

Tun Hussein Onn was renowned for emphasising the issue of unity through policies aimed at rectifying economic imbalances among the races. These included the launching of the National Unit Trust Scheme (Amanah Saham Nasional). In 1976, Tun Hussein launched PEMADAM, a national organisation dedicated to combat drug abuse, and also often stressed on the importance of Rukun Tetangga in its role in maintaining peace and harmony of the Malaysian community.

He also dedicated his tenure as Prime Minister to creating a culture of discipline, purpose, and integrity. He hated corruption, and likened it to a disease which must be wiped out "before it becomes cancerous".

For his efforts at promoting goodwill among the country's various communities, Tun Hussein Onn is remembered as the "**Father of Unity**".

Tun Hussein Onn

(1976 - 1981)

CHRONOLOGY

1922: Tun Hussein Onn was born in Johor Bahru, Johor, on 12th February.

1940: He joined the Johor Military as a Cadet.

1941: Sent to the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun, India. Served in the Indian Army and was deployed in the Middle East when World War 2 broke out.

1946: Returned to Malaya and joined the Civil Service as an Assistant Administrative Officer in Segamat, Johor.

1949: Tun Hussein was elected UMNO's first Youth Chief.

1950: Tun Hussein was appointed as UMNO's Sec-General.

1951: Left UMNO to join his father's Independence of Malaya Party (IMP).

1951: Tun Hussein left the political scene to study law at Lincoln's Inn, London.

1958: Graduated as a Barrister in Law from Lincoln's Inn. Four years later in 1962, he was called to the Bar as advocate and solicitor.

1968: Return to Malaya and was persuaded by Tun Abdul Razak to return to UMNO.

1969: He contested in the General Election, and won. He became the Minister of Education of Malaysia.

1973: On 13th August, Tun Hussein became the Deputy Prime Minister after the sudden death of Tun Dr Ismail.

1976: On 15th January, Tun Hussein Onn became the 3rd Prime Minister of Malaysia, replacing Tun Abdul Razak who passed away suddenly from an illness.

1978: Set up Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) to increase Bumiputera share ownership.

1981: Launched Amanah Saham Nasional on 20th April.

1981: Stepped down as the Prime Minister, on grounds of ill-health.

1990: Tun Hussein Onn passed away on 29th May after suffering a fatal heart attack at Seaton Medical Centre, San Francisco, USA.

FAMILY

Wife: Tun Suhailah binti Tan Sri Haji Mohd Noah Omar

Children: Rogayah Hanim, Dr Suraya Hani, Rodziah Hanis, Dato' Seri Hishammuddin, Dr Rozita Halina, and Harris Onn.