

# Jalan Tun Razak is home to many landmark buildings

By DEBBIE CHAN  
Photos by SAMUEL ONG

[debbie@thestar.com.my](mailto:debbie@thestar.com.my)

ONE of the busiest roads in Kuala Lumpur is Jalan Tun Razak, with its interchanges that lead to various suburbs of Kuala Lumpur as well as buildings and attractions around the area.

Home to the Istana Budaya, the National Library, and the National Gallery, Jalan Tun Razak also cuts through the busy district of Kuala Lumpur at the Jalan Ampang junction, which plays host to City Square, Crown Princess Hotel and the Ampang Park LRT station.



**Busy and popular: Jalan Tun Razak is home to various landmark buildings.**

During peak hours, the road is often congested and the new SMART Tunnel that is located on Jalan Tun Razak had just come into operation recently to help ease the traffic.

Without introduction, most would know that the road takes after the country's second Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak who headed the government from 1970 to 1976.

Born in Pulau Keladi, Pahang on March 11, 1922, Tun Razak was the only child of Datuk Hussein Mohd Taib and Hajah Teh Fatimah Daud. Tun Razak went to school at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar in 1934 and was known as an outstanding student.

He joined the Malay Administrative Service in 1939 and was awarded a scholarship to pursue his higher education at Raffles College in Singapore in 1940. However, the Second World War interrupted his studies and with a Malayan Union scholarship, he went to England in 1947 to read law.



**A forward-thinking leader: Tun Abdul Razak is also known as the Father of Development.**

Tun Razak was a member of the British Labour Party and was a prominent student leader of the Malay Association of Great Britain. He also founded the Malayan Forum, an organisation for Malayan students to discuss their country's political issues. He received his degree of an Utter Barrister from the Lincoln's Inn in 1950.

When he returned to Malaya, Tun Razak joined the Malayan Civil Service and his capability in politics led him to being appointed as the youth chief of the United Malays National Organization (Umno). Two years later, he worked as the assistant state secretary of Pahang and in February 1955, he was appointed as Pahang Menteri Besar. In the same year, he contested and won the country's first general election and was appointed the Education Minister.

After the 1959 general election, he became the Minister of Rural Development in addition to holding the portfolios of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. His contributions include the formulation of the development policy known as the Red Book and in September 1970, he succeeded Tunku Abdul Rahman as the prime minister of Malaysia.

Tun Razak was the one who launched the New Economic Policy in 1971 and was one of the visionary Malay leaders who saw the need to tackle vigorously the economic and social disparities, which fuelled the racial tension back then. In 1973, he formed the Barisan Nasional to replace the ruling Alliance Party and increased the membership of coalition to establish national unity through political stability.

Until this day, Tun Razak is known as the Father of Development for his contributions in the area.