

## Ulasan Buku/*Book Review*

*Pak Lah A Sense of Accountability An Insight into Effective Stewardship* by Ismail Noor and edited by Elina Noor. Kuala Lumpur: Utusan Publications & Distributors Sdn Bhd. 2003. 168pp, Price RM28.00 paperback, ISBN 967-61-1492-8. Reviewed by Ibrahim Abu Bakar.

In the acknowledgements, the author expresses his thanks to the sponsor, the editor, the publisher and the launcher of his book. Yayasan Amal Wangsa led by Dato' Hj Zulhasnan Rafiq sponsored the book publication. Elina Noor, the author's daughter, edited the book and Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas, the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang, launched the book.

In the introduction, the author explains that his initial work for his book began at the beginning of 1999 when Pak Lah, referring to Dato' Sri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, was the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. The author stresses that his main purpose in writing the book is "to write about the sense of accountability in Pak Lah, as he is affectionately known to most, and of his orientations in that direction as a national leader." (pp.vi-vii). The author claims that he has been a good friend of Pak Lah since his university days and Pak Lah supported him for his book. Pak Lah started to become the Prime Minister of Malaysia in November 2003 after Dato' Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed stepped down from being the Prime Minister of Malaysia to pave the way to Pak Lah.

The book has 25 topics related to Pak Lah. Three of the topics are on the accountability, and other topics Pak Lah's own education and training, his holding of various government posts, his leadership, and his views and approaches. For example, the book first chapter briefly presents the early life of Pak Lah who was born in November 26, 1939 in Kampung Perlis, Bayan Lepas, Pulau Pinang, and then graduated from University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur in 1964, and married Endon Mahmood in 1965. Their marriage was blessed with a son named Kamaluddin and a daughter named Nori. Immediately after his graduation, Pak Lah became an assistant secretary in the Public Services Department (PSD). In 1971 Pak Lah became the Director of Youth in the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Malaysia before he became the Deputy Secretary-General in the same ministry in 1975.

This book is very good for those who would like to read and know the short biography of Pak Lah and his views on accountability, the Malays and the globalization. The book also presents Pak Lah as “the Administrator”, the caring leader, “the Altruistic Leader”, “the Team Player”, and “the Islamic Pragmatist”.

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