

TUN TAN CHENG LOCK

SMN; DPMJ; (Joh); CBE; KBE; JP.

“The Sage of Malacca”

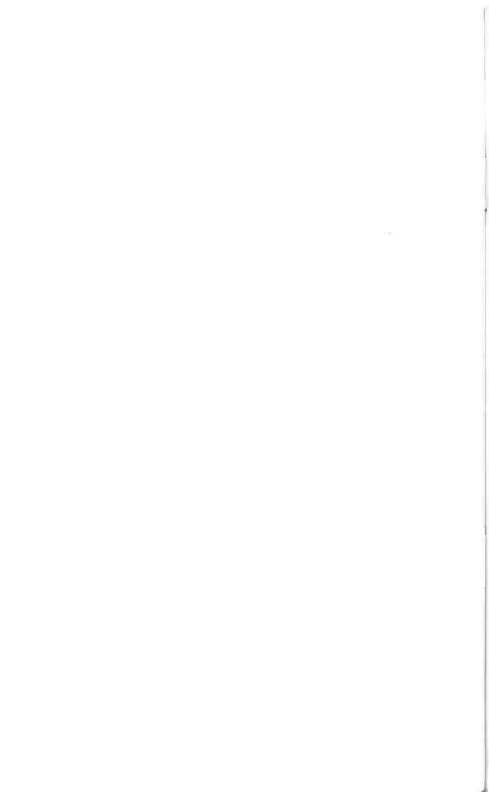
A BRIEF MEMOIR

by

THOMAS R. P. DAWSON, M. COM.

KUALA LUMPUR.

Price ~~500~~ 51/50



**“A DISTINGUISHED MALAYAN PATRIOT
AND
AN INTERNATIONAL FIGURE”**



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DEDICATED TO THE REVERED MEMORY

OF

TUN TAN CHENG LOCK

“A DISTINGUISHED MALAYAN PATRIOT

AND

AN INTERNATIONAL FIGURE”

Nombor Talipon 88350



*Timbalan Perdana Menteri,
Malaysia,
Kuala Lumpur*

17th September, 1966.

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure and honour to pay tribute to the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock, the distinguished father of my distinguished colleague and personal friend, Enche Tan Siew Sin.

Tun Tan Cheng Lock was a great Malayan patriot and a champion of Sino-Malay co-operation. He was born a Chinese but he was proud to be a Malayan and that was why his loyalty was always to this country even at the height of the Chinese Nationalist Movement in Nanyang. He tirelessly pleaded and led the Malayan Chinese to work closely with the Malays and Indians to achieve Merdeka for this country in 1957.

He was a superb Malayan nationalist—always urging, pleading, cajoling and—even intimidating—the two races, Malays and Chinese, that their salvation was togetherness. Their unity was and still is the prerequisite to building a really united Malayan Nation. He was throughout his life inculcating Malayan consciousness and nationalism. Therefore, if there was any one in our country who first ever talked about multi-racial co-operation, harmony and a Malayan Malaya, it was this grand old man of Malacca. The difference between Tun Tan Cheng Lock and latter advocates of Malaysian Malaysia is that Tun Tan sincerely believed in what he was advocating and did all he could to achieve it through Sino-Malay co-operation whereas other people tried notwithstanding devastating results to break this co-operation and harmony. Then the Chinese were in the minority in Malaya. Still because Tun Tan Cheng Lock believed that there must be a united nation if Malaya were to survive he fought hard for a common nationality and one loyalty.

Reading through this little book, specially published to honour Tun Tan Cheng Lock, is just like reading the political history of Malaya during the time this great patriot lived. Tun Tan's crusade for Malayan consciousness and nationhood is now being continued ably by his equally distinguished son, Siew Sin. Under Tan Siew Sin's leadership, the Chinese are co-operating

with the Malays and other races to help build a prosperous and just Malaysia for all.

Tun Tan Cheng Lock was a man of many talents—a Chinese scholar, a successful businessman, a great statesman, and above all, he was a great Malayan nationalist and like his father, Siew Sin is a man of many talents too. The story of Siew Sin is the story of a distinguished son of a distinguished father.

If every Malaysian of all races is a Tan Cheng Lock or a Siew Sin, then Malaysia would have been an even happier place to live in and there would, of course, be no need for the Alliance Government to create a united Malaysian Nation because there would have been one already all along

I wish as many Malaysians as possible would read this book—a brief and yet stirring story of a Malayan patriot who did so much for his country and his people. As such, Tun Tan Cheng Lock will always be remembered by a grateful nation.

(TUN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK BIN HUSSEIN)

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

Without goodness, wrote Francis Bacon, "Man is a busy, mischievous, wretched thing: no better than a kind of vermin". That conscience of this grand old man, "the sage of Malacca" as Tun Tan Cheng Lock was often described by his numerous admirers throughout the world, was like a steady Gulf Stream of goodness radiating out from his hometown, Malacca (Malaysia).

His work, patriotism and loyalty to Malaya had never been questioned. He looked upon Malaya as his country and he was proud to be its son. He was also proud to be a Chinese and a Malayan. He always urged that the Malays and the Chinese should come together—that each should accept the other as a friend. Few, if any, people asked him for help without receiving the benefit of his advice and the support of his authority in so far as it could reasonably be given.

The writer had on many occasions consulted him on diverse matters both political and social and readily received his fruitful and valuable advice.

This brief Memoir is therefore written as a small token of gratitude to this great man, who was internationally known as a fine scholar, a successful businessman, an able statesman and a man of public spirit and a patriot of outstanding qualities.

T.R.P.D.

*42, Jalan Rodger,
Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia.*

7th June, 1966.

TUN TAN CHENG LOCK

Tun Tan Cheng Lock, the father of Tan Siew Sin, came from a family which has settled in Malacca for many generations.

He was born here on April 5th, 1883.

He had traced his descent from Tan Hay of Fukien Province who emigrated to the South Seas region during the reign of Chien Lung. (A.D. 1736 to 1796).

Tan Hay was the owner and navigator of a junk trading between Macassar and Malacca at the time.

He ultimately settled down in Malacca and married a Straits-born Chinese woman about 200 years ago. A life-size painting of this woman still adorns his ancestral home at No. 111 Heeren Street, Malacca.

His grandfather, Tan Choon Bock was born in Malacca and became a pioneer in the tapioca and gambier planting industry, introducing the use of power machinery on his tapioca estate, Pengkalan Minyak in Jasin.

Tan Choon Bock was also the founder and managing partner of the first steamship company established in the sixties of the last century to open regular communication between the ports of Malaya.

In about 1884, this company was amalgamated with another Chinese shipping concern viz, Keng Yong Brothers, founded by his maternal uncle, Lee Keng Yong.

About six years later in 1890, a European named Bogaart, who owned only one steamer, the s.s. "SAPPHO" joined the combine which became the Straits Steamship Co. Ltd.

Tun Tan was educated at the Malacca High School and at Raffles Institution in Singapore. In 1913, he married Miss Yeo Yeok Neo, daughter of the late Mr. Yeo Tin Hye, President of the Hokkien community.

Tun Tan began his career as a school master at Raffles Institution in 1902. In 1908 and 1909, he held the post of Assistant Manager of the Bukit Kajang Rubber Estates Ltd. and Manager of the Ayer Molek Rubber Co. Ltd. which he floated.

In 1909 and 1910, he floated the Malaka Pinda Rubber Estates Ltd., and the United Malacca Rubber Estates Ltd., of which he became Managing Director and later Chairman of Directors.

His other Directorships included the Assurance Corporation Ltd., Sime Darby & Co. Ltd., and the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation.

He became a member of the Malacca Municipal Commission in 1912 and in the same year he was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

In 1933, he was awarded the C.B.E. and in 1937 he was official representative of the Straits Settlements at the Coronation of King George VI in London.

It was largely through his efforts as a member of the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements that the Government in 1926 appointed a Chinese Marriage Committee to report on Chinese Marriage customs obtaining in the Colony and to submit proposals for legislation with a view to the introduction of reforms as to what constituted a valid Chinese marriage.

In 1947, when the Revised Constitutional Proposals were accepted in complete defiance of public opinion, Tun Tan led the population of all Asian races in Malacca to organise a hartal on October 20th throughout the country.

In 1949, he was elected the first President of the Malayan Chinese Association which had some 200,000 members.

On April 10th, whilst addressing a public meeting at the premises of the Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Ipoh, he was wounded by a hand grenade thrown at him by a terrorist.

In September in the same year, the Sultan of Johore awarded him the D.P.M.J. and in January 1952, he was knighted by King George VI for having shown courageous leadership in support of the Government and Inter-communal co-operation.

In the 1930's he headed a delegation of six non-European Legislative Council Members to interview the then Governor and High Commissioner, Sir Cecil Clementi, to plead for the admission of non-European British subjects born in Malaya into the Malayan Civil Service.

As a result, the Straits Settlement Civil Service was introduced.

In 1918, he served on the Anglo-Chinese College Council which was formed by the Methodist Mission to establish an institution of higher education in Malaya and which ultimately led to the founding of Raffles College in 1928.

Because of his thorough knowledge of Chinese history, culture and philosophy and coupled with his knowledge of Western culture, a European scholar called him the "Sage of Malacca".

It may surprise many in the country to learn that as far back as 1926, he was uttering these words in the Legislative Council Chamber in Empress Place, Singapore:—

"Our ultimate political goal should be a united self-governing British Malaya with a Federal Government and Parliament for the whole of it, functioning at a convenient centre, say Kuala Lumpur, and with as much autonomy in purely local affairs as possible for each of its component parts.

When retired from the Straits Settlements Legislative Council, the then Colonial Secretary, Sir Andrew Caldecott paid this tribute to this great man:—

"For 12 years he has represented current opinion and also his own personal views with a frankness, a fullness and a fairness that has compelled universal admiration. The Colony stands deeply beholden to him".



Yang Berhormat Tan Siew Sin, J.P.
Minister of Finance

TUN TAN CHENG LOCK DIES AT 77

Tun Tan Cheng Lock suddenly took ill with a heart attack on 8th December 1960. He was admitted to hospital at Malacca. Ten minutes before he died, he asked for his car, saying he was feeling well and wanted to go home. As he was speaking, he suddenly felt unwell. The State Physician, Dr. Peter Loy de Villers Hart, was summoned. Tun Tan died a few minutes later. By his bedside were Toh Puan Tan and his two daughters, Agnes and Alice. His body was later taken home. Miss Alice Tan, who was admitted to the Bar in Kuala Lumpur only the previous day, said: "My father was in good spirits the whole of today. This morning he refused to take his medicine." He said: "Nobody can make me take it."

Tun Tan's son, Tan Siew Sin, the Minister of Finance was in Kuala Lumpur. He was informed of the death of his father in Malacca by telephone.

Tengku Abdul Rahman, the Prime Minister, heard the news from Mrs. Tan Siew Sin, who telephoned just after as he finished evening prayers.

The Tengku said later: "Tun Tan's death has robbed Malaya of one of her illustrious sons. His work, patriotism and loyalty to Malaya have never been questioned. His greatest pride was to tell his friends that even in the days of the Chinese Nationalist Movement, he refused to identify himself with China. Instead, he said Malaya was his country and he was proud to be its son. He was also proud to be a Chinese and a Malayan. Before the independence movement started, he always urged that the Malays and the Chinese should come together—that each should accept the other as a brother and a friend. When the movement started, he readily joined in. When he found that the Independence of Malaya Party promoted by the late Dato Onn did not wish for Independence but only for self determination, he joined the Alliance. Without his patriotic support for Independence in the early days, it is not likely that our effort would have achieved the success which it did.

When he became ill, I lost a pillar of support. Now his death has robbed me of a very dear friend." Among numerous tributes that were paid on the night of his death by community and political leaders, the following are quoted: —



Hon'ble Inche V. Manickavasagam
Minister of Labour and Vice-President
(Malayan Indian Congress)



Hon'ble Tan Sri V. T. Sambanthan,
Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications
and President of the Malayan Indian Congress

Inche Abdul Gaffar bin Baba, Chief Minister of Malacca:—

“Tun Tan was one of the greatest leaders the country had ever produced”.

Tan Sri Ong Yoke Lin, then Minister of Health and Social Welfare:—

“We have lost a distinguished Malayan patriot and an international figure”.

Dato R. P. S. Rajasooria, J.P., a leader of the Ceylonese Community:—

“He was a true gentleman who always had a kind word—and never forgot a face. He had a lucid and discerning brain”.

Inche Ahmad Boestaman, Chairman of the Socialist Front:—

“Whatever our differences, he was a grand old man of Malayan politics.”

Inche V. Manickavasagam, then Assistant Minister of Labour:—

“The Indians in this country mourn the loss of one of Malaya's great leaders and its elder statesman”.

Dato V. T. Sambanthan, Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications and President of the Malayan Indian Congress:—

“He played a memorable part in the history of our nation—both in the independence struggle and the building of a common national outlook”.

The name Tan Cheng Lock will be remembered for as long as life continues in Malaysia. By many Malaysians, he will be remembered as Tan Cheng Lock, the man who was interested in their griefs and anxieties rather than Tun Tan, the great constitutional and philosophical thinker.

His greatness lay in his ready sympathy, especially for those who suffered during the long Emergency.

Few, if any people asked him for help without receiving the benefit of his advice and the support of his authority in so far as it could reasonably be given.

His life falls into three main periods, first as the most independent-minded member of the Singapore Legislative Council, then as an exile in India during the Japanese Occupation, thinking and planning the Malaya in which we live today and finally as the co-architect with Tengku Abdul Rahman of the Independence of Malaya.

Not to forget, however, his fruitful and valuable co-operation with Dato Onn and Dato Thuraisingam and other great Malaysians who served together in the Communitie's Liaison Committee.

Lest we may forget the guiding principle of Tan Cheng Lock's life, let it be stated clearly that he was a believer in equality for all persons of whatever race or creed.

His reason for joining Dato Onn in the formation of the Independence of Malaya Party was that Dato Onn promised equality. His reason for abandoning the Independence of Malaya Party was because Dato Onn supported amendments to the Citizenship laws which were not fully consistent with the stated aims of the Independence of Malaya Party.

His reason for joining the Alliance was because the United Malays National Organisation (U.M.N.O.) agreed on April 4th, 1953 that every person born in this country who had lived here for five years should be entitled to a parliamentary vote whether or not he was entitled to citizenship.

Tan Cheng Lock was a great assuager of tolerance and passion, his spirit has influenced all the negotiations which have taken place in the march to independence.

For us especially the result of his endeavours has been that Malacca has awakened from her long sleep under Colonial rule to the responsibility of self government at all levels.

If there are any who regret the "good old days" into which Tan Cheng Lock was born they will nevertheless concede that he had a vision and that he saw his vision fulfilled and they may well feel that he has lived long enough into the age of Independence of Malacca and the Federation to be satisfied, in parting, that he leaves behind him as stable and harmonious a society as that into which he was born in Malacca eight decades ago.

On the occasion of the State Funeral, which is perhaps the highest honour that any country can confer upon its sons and daughters, Malacca people were united among themselves and with their fellow countrymen in the rest of the Federation in mourning but at the same time in pride that this place produced a great controversial figure.

A country, which produces great controversial people is healthier than that which brings forth the merely obedient.

To his dying day, Tan Cheng Lock remained, a wilful character.

Even on his death bed he could say this: —

“Nobody can make me take it, if I don't want to”.

Although English and Malay were his normal languages, his devotion to the land of his forebears was no less for lack of a Chinese education. In the best sense of such conflicting concepts, he was Anglo-Chinese in outlook, anxious to see Malay's independence, concerned that Chinese partnership with the Malays should be established on a firm footing, but no less anxious that the closest ties with Britain should be maintained.

It was with these motives that he founded the Malayan Chinese Association, a body which did much during the worst years of the Emergency from 1948 onwards, to urge Chinese to co-operate with the Government. In the work of regrouping villages and in the organisation of welfare, the Association was the only body to represent all Chinese. It might have done much to weld the Chinese community together but for the political pressures that after 1949 began to draw the Chinese educated members of the community away from the English-educated.

Tan Cheng Lock was too much identified with the English educated class to maintain his influence in a body which never won the allegiance of the Chinese-speaking masses.

He was a man of great learning, proud of his book-lined study in Malacca, well read in Eastern and Western philosophy and devoted to public causes of which education was the foremost.

He was associated with numerous charities. In 1952, he was made K.B.E. and in Malaya, he was successively granted the titles Dato and Tun.

The Prime Minister, Tengku Abdul Rahman immediately on hearing of the news of Tun Tan Cheng Lock's death proceeded to Malacca accompanied by Tun Tan's son, Tan Siew Sin, the Minister of Finance. Among the first to pay their respects were Dr. C. J. Hassett, a former State Surgeon and Dr. E. Field, a former Director of the Institute of Medical Research.

It was only on August 1st, 1960 that Toh Puan Tan and Dr. Field jointly celebrated their birthday in Tun Tan's home. The news of the death of Tun Tan spread very fast and most of the Cabinet members immediately proceeded to Malacca to pay their respects to a great and true patriot.

The Tengku immediately on arrival at Malacca gave orders for a State Funeral.



Tan Sri Ong Yoke Lin, P.M.N.,
Minister Without Portfolio,
Ambassador to U.S.A.

STATE FUNERAL

The Prime Minister, Mr. and Mrs. Tan Siew Sin and Dato Ong Yoke Lin flew from Kuala Lumpur to Malacca in two R.M.A.F. Pioneers. The others travelled by car.

On arrival at Heeren Street, Mr. and Mrs. Tan Siew Sin knelt and prayed before the family altar, placed near the bed on which lay the covered body of the late Tun Tan.

Preliminary arrangements for the State Funeral as ordered by the Prime Minister were agreed to at a 45 minute meeting between the Prime Minister, Tengku Abdul Rahman and members of Tun Tan's family, including his widow, Toh Puan Tan and son, Tan Siew Sin, the Minister of Finance.

Also present at the funeral consultations that morning were Malacca's Chief Minister, Inche Abdul Ghafar bin Baba, Dato Ong Yoke Lin, then Minister of Health and Social Welfare, the Deputy Secretary for Defence, Inche Kadir bin Shamsuddin, the Deputy G.O.C. of the Federation Army, Brigadier Raja Lope Nor Rashid, the Officer Commanding the Royal Malayan Navy and Naval Adviser to the Federation Government, Captain W. J. Dovers and the Federation's Senior Protocol Officer, Inche Jamal bin Abdul Latiff.

The remains of the 77 year old statesman were placed in a coffin at a ceremony in his home that afternoon. The coffin, specially made from Kledang wood, was brought from his estate, the Tong Watt Estate at Batang Melaka that morning.

A "Tun Tan Cheng Lock Scholarship Committee" was formed that day. A press statement issued by the Committee said many close friends and associates of the late statesman had suggested that a Scholarship Fund be established for the benefit of all races "to perpetuate his memory as a leader of our multi-racial nation".

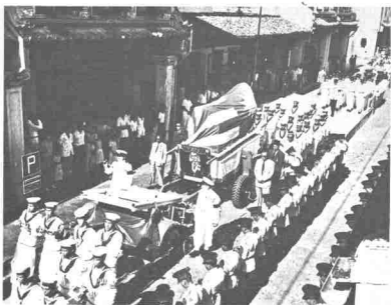
The proposal had been agreed to by the family of the late Tun Tan, the statement added. Accordingly, anyone who wished to send wreaths or scrolls was asked instead to send their cash equivalent to the Committee at No. 111 Heeren Street, Malacca.

It was 9.40 a.m. when a file of soldiers bore the coffin draped with the Federation flag, from the hall of the house and onto a wooden ramp specially erected on the roadway.

The rifles of the guard of honour swept down in a slow arc as its members reversed arms and the national anthem was played.



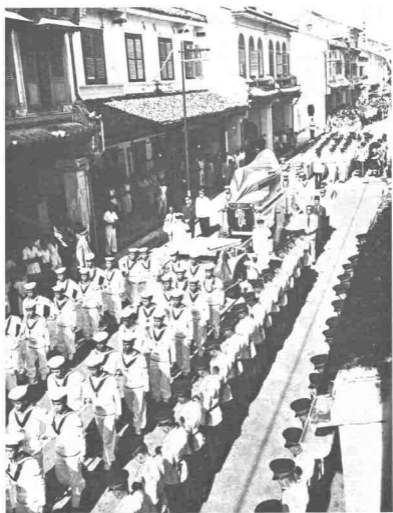
The State Funeral Procession passing through Riverside



The Coffin draped with the Federation Flag being borne on Gun Carriage drawn by ratings of the Royal Malay Navy

The coffin was then placed on a gun carriage. The six pall-bearers moved into position flanking it. They were the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Tan Sri Ong Yoke Lin, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Inche Mohamed Khir bin Johari, the Malacca M.I.C. President, Mr. G. Mariappan, Mr. Tan Cheng Swee, Inche Mohamed bin Haji Abdul Rahman and Mr. Goh Joon Hoe, all Malacca State Executive Councillors.

They were followed by the insignia bearers—army and police officers and Tun Tan's immediate relatives. Behind them came the host of mourners—Cabinet Ministers, members of Opposition parties, diplomats, the Rulers' representatives, Service chiefs and other dignitaries.



THE FUNERAL PROCESSION LEAVING THE HOUSE



Yang Berhormat Tun Haji Abdul Razak bin Dato Hussein,
S.M.N., D.K. (Perlis),
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Defence,
Minister of National and Rural Development.

LAST GOODBYE

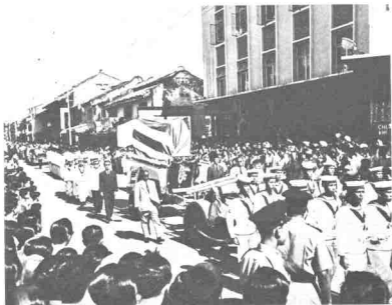
It was time to go. The tinkling of ornamental bells hung in a neighbour's window that had been the only sound for minutes past, was replaced with the metronome beat of drums draped in black.

Down Third Cross Street, Jonker Street, over Tan Kim Seng Bridge and into Riverside moved the procession.

The people of Malacca in their thousands packed the five-footways, upper windows of shops and houses, and dozens of rooftops to watch it pass—and to say goodbye to a well-beloved leader.

Up the broad sweep of Wolferstan Road, hung like every other thoroughfare in the town with flags at half-mast, the procession moved until it came to a halt at the Newcome road junction.

The coffin was now transferred to a wreath-laden hearse, Tan Siew Sin formally accepting his father's remains from the Deputy Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak, who represented the Federation Government.



THE COFFIN DRAPPED WITH THE FEDERATION FLAG
BEING BORNE ON A GUN CARRIAGE DRAWN BY
RATINGS OF THE ROYAL MALAYAN NAVY

TRIBUTES

Mr. Tan Siew Sin had spent the week-end in bed on doctors' orders. Today, pale and drawn, he left the car occupied by his mother and other mourners and walked behind his father's coffin as the procession set off again. At the graveside, he told the Malay Mail representative: "That was at least the last thing I could do for my father. I never expected him to die so soon. I had expected him to live up to 100 years".

From the Newcome Road junction, the procession became one of the biggest Chinese funeral corteges ever seen in Malaya. It was joined by scores of M.C.A. officials from branches throughout the Federation.

Headed by the hearse, whose floral tributes included a wreath from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the procession slowly wound its way over the last two miles to Tun Tan's family burial ground on Bukit Bahru.

Tun Tan was then finally laid to rest beside his mother, Madam Lee Sek Bin, who died four years earlier at the age of 98. The Prime Minister, Tengku Abdul Rahman who represented the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was also present to pay homage to Tun Tan. More than 40,000 people attended the above funeral which was a clear indication of the great esteem and regard the late Tun Tan commanded. Meanwhile more messages of condolence continued to pour into Tun Tan's Heeren Street home. Among them was one from the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, Mr. Duncan Sandys and two from the Formosan Government.

The Governor of Malacca, Dato Haji Abdul Malek said: "The country has sustained a great loss. Tun Tan worked for the prosperity and well-being of all Malaysians".

In Ipoh, members of the Perak State Legislative Assembly cut through all political barriers to pay tribute to Tun Tan.

When the Assembly resumed its Budget session, the Menteri Besar of Perak, Inche Shaari bin Piai, said he wanted to express the bereavement of the Assembly and of the people of Perak on the death of Tun Tan.

Mr. Teoh Kim Swee (People's Progressive Party—Chemor) described Tun Tan as "a gentleman and a patriot".

Inche Baharuddin bin Haji Abdul Latiff (Pan Malayan Islamic Party—Gunong Semanggol), "in the name of the

P.M.I.P." expressed his condolences to Tun Tan's family. "The people of this country", he said "mourn the loss of one of the greatest men of our day."

"Tun Tan has shown his goodness and his example should be followed by others".

The Speaker, Inche Suleiman bin Bulon, said that the Mentri Besar would send a message of condolence, on behalf of the Assembly and the State, to Tun Tan's family.

In Penang, the national president of the Malayan Chinese Association, Dato (Dr) Cheah Toon Lok, praised Tun Tan as "a great Malayan leader and patriot whose death last night has cast a gloom over every Chinese household".

"It will be difficult to find another leader like him" Dato Cheah stated.

"Eleven years ago his magic name and personality brought the M.C.A. into being.

"He it was who united Malayan Chinese of different views into one single political force".

Dato Cheah, who wired condolences to Toh Puan Tan and her family said his heart and mind were in a turmoil over the great loss the Chinese had sustained.

"For myself, Tun Tan's death has cut off a wonderful source of inspiration" Dato Cheah added.

"There is no doubt that the existence of the M.C.A. and the Alliance was due in a large measure to his wise statesmanship and foresight".

Dr. Lim Chong Eu, past president of the M.C.A. described his predecessor as "a truly great man".

"He has died but his spirit will live on" Dr. Lim said.

"The fruit of his effort will always remain with us to point the way to progress for a Malayan nation where all races live in brotherhood and friendship".

In Singapore, Umno members paid tribute to Tun Tan at a special condolence meeting.

A party spokesman said: "Though Tun Tan was of Chinese origin he was a true Malayan patriot and it is a great honour to us of Umno Singapore to pay tribute to him".

NATION BUILDER

The name of Tan Cheng Lock is assured of a place in the history of Malaya for all time.

In this essentially young country (there can be a few democracies whose leaders are still, for the main part, in their early forties) the death of one who well qualifies for the title 'elder statesman' seems to mark the end of an era.

Tun Tan was a living example of the Malayan concept. He was born in Malaya on April 5th 1883 and while he took pride and a continual life interest in the culture and traditions of the Chinese people he always gave his first loyalty to the land of his birth.

Rightly was he described by the Prime Minister, Tengku Abdul Rahman, as "One of Malaya's illustrious sons".

No man held with more sturdy determination to his beliefs and one to which he gave the highest priority was the concept of a Malayan nation.

As long ago as 1926 he declared: "It is high time that we take action towards forging the surest and strongest link of a united Malaya by fostering and creating a true Malayan spirit and consciousness among its people, to the complete elimination of racial and communal feeling".

In those days Tun Tan was envisaging a British Malaya for few would have forecast that in a little over thirty years from that date this country would be independent.

But even in those early days his was the voice that was urging a greater participation of Malaya's own sons in the rule and destiny of the country.

His role as a nation builder is established for all time. His intellectual and business abilities were well known and his personal bravery was shown on the occasion in Ipoh in 1949 when he was made the target of an assassination attempt by the Communists.

He survived that attack and a few years later he recovered from a serious accident.

But passing years took their toll and he returned only briefly on to the political scene in 1959 in providing his good offices to patch up the U.M.N.O.—M.C.A. split.

As founder of the Malayan Chinese Association and long its President he was gravely concerned at the prospect of that unity for which he had always fought being lost, at a crucial time.

He was an elderly and a tired man when he made his journey to Kuala Lumpur but it was one which he was determined to make in the interests not only of the association he had formed but for the nation.

Since those days Tun Tan, the holder of Malaya's highest order of chivalry, lived quietly in his beloved Malacca.

Far beyond the boundaries of Malaya he was known as "The Sage of Malacca" and there will be no one on whom this mantle can now fall.

Tan Cheng Lock was not always right. He was not always consistent. But in his devotion to Malaya he was always unswerving.

TUN TAN SAVED HALF MILLION CHINESE FROM BEING DEPORTED

The Senate was told on 21.12.1960 that at least half a million Chinese would have been compelled to leave Malaya had it not been for the intervention of the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock.

Senator T. H. Tan said this when he seconded a motion by the Minister of Justice, Tun Leong Yew Koh, to express the condolences of the Senate to the widow of Tun Tan and his family.

Senator Tan said: "The Chinese in Malaya should know what they owe to Tun Tan Cheng Lock".

"But for him, when he was president of the Malayan Chinese Association, at least half a million Chinese would have been compelled to leave Malaya on the outbreak of the Emergency.

"Tun Tan suggested the creation of new villages and this saved the Chinese from what might well have been a cruel fate".

"The people who attended his funeral—men, women and children of all races and all walks of life—knew the debt the nation owes to him".

Senator Tan described Tun Tan as "that great and worthy son of Malaya".

"I well remember the days and nights he spent thinking out how independence could be won for this country" he said.

"The key, he was convinced, was inter-racial harmony. And that led to the birth of the Alliance, the party that won for us our natural freedom".

Tun Leong said: "Tun Tan Cheng Lock died full of years and of honour".

"I venture to suggest that his greatest memorial will be the inter-racial harmony which he assisted in creating".

Other tributes came from:

Senator Wan Ahmad: "Even the children in the kampongs knew of him and his qualities".

Senator Koh Kim Leng: "Anyone who tries to stir up racial differences is a traitor to Tun Tan's spirit".

Senator Abdul Hamid: "He was a great leader".

Senator Abdul Jalil: "We should follow his example, especially the ra'ayat, and work for peace and harmony".

The motion was approved unanimously.



Yang Teramat Mulia Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj,
K.O.M., C.H., D.K. (Perlis),
Prime Minister,
Minister of External Affairs,
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

TUN TAN

THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRIBUTE IN PARLIAMENT ON 21.12.60 TO ONE OF MALAYA'S MOST PATRIOTIC AND OUSTANDING LEADERS.

"I rise to speak with a sad heart to bring to the attention of this House for the official record our feelings on the great loss we have suffered as the result of the death of a great Malayan, Tun Tan Cheng Lock.

I am sure I express the feelings of all members of this House, irrespective of party, when I say that the death of Tun Tan is a very sad occasion for the Federation of Malaya, because without any reservations at all, he was held in high esteem by all Malaysians as one of the founders of the Malayan nation.

His passing was peaceful and quick, I am sure in the manner he would have wished, but nevertheless it came with a sense of unexpected shock.

Although everyone knew that Tan was well advanced in age and his general health had declined somewhat in the past few years, nevertheless all of us knew his tenacity of will and spirit, and expected that he would live on quietly for very many years.

I know I had no inkling that his bed in the Malacca General Hospital would be his last resting place in life, and I was deeply moved indeed when I heard the news last Tuesday night from his only son, Mr. Tan Siew Sin.

My own feeling was one of extreme sadness, because as a Malayan, I was aware at once of the loss of one of our most outstanding leaders, and as a man my heart was recalling memories of him as a very dear friend.

On hearing of his death I immediately went to Malacca to express my sympathy both personally and on behalf of the nation and this House to the members of the bereaved family.

I also gave instructions for a State Funeral to be held in Malacca in honour of the memory of Tun Tan. In doing so, I was sure that this would be in keeping with your wishes, that we should pay a just tribute to a grand old man by giving him a funeral befitting the high place he had won in the hearts of our people.

As you know, the State funeral, which many members of this House attended, was held in Malacca and many thousands of people all over Malaya were present to pay their last respects to Tun Tan.

His death has robbed Malaya of one of her illustrious sons. His work, his patriotism and his loyalty to Malaya have never been questioned.

His greatest pride was to tell his friends, even in the days of the height of the Chinese Nationalist movement that he refused to identify himself with China.

Instead, he said Malaya was his country, and he was proud to be a son of Malaya. He was also proud of his heritage as a Chinese and equally proud to be a Malayan, born and bred for several generations.

Before the independence movement started he was always insisting that the Malays and the Chinese should come together, and that each should accept the other as a brother and friend.

When the independence movement started he readily joined in but when he found that the Independence of Malaya Party did not work for independence but only for self-determination, he joined the Alliance.

Without his patriotic support in those early days I might say that my mission for independence could not have been achieved except probably at the cost of trouble and bloodshed.

When he was ill and became incapacitated I lost a partner who had been a pillar of strength to the Alliance Party. Now his death robs me of a very dear friend. May his soul rest in peace.

By any standards Tun Tan was a very remarkable man. He was known everywhere as a fine scholar, a successful businessman, an able statesman and a man of public spirit and a patriot of outstanding qualities.

He feared no one, and more than once he showed both moral courage and physical bravery, but he was never an aggressive man, always one who moved in the ways of peace and understanding with a high regard for the views of other men.

Nevertheless, he had his own mind and he was never afraid to express his opinion.

Sometimes his voice seemed as one very much ahead of his time, and he will be remembered always in the history of Malaya as a man who spoke with deep consciousness that the future of Malaya and the happiness of her people could spring only from a common feeling of being Malayan.

He never wavered from this belief, and I think it will be the verdict of history that his unswerving fidelity to Malaya was a beacon of light to all Malayan Chinese, particularly in the dire conflicts of mind and heart which beset the early days of the long Emergency.

He showed a sure path in those difficult days, and every Malayan knows now that this is the only path for our present and our future.

His patriotism was such that he spoke about the need to be a Malayan even in the days when we were a humbled people and he never failed to point out to those who looked to China that they should think again and realise that their true loyalty should lie in Malaya, the land of their life and work.

Though sometimes villified and once almost assassinated by a bomb, his courage and his faith in being a Malayan remained unshaken.

And while we pay respect to the deep patriotism of a true Malayan I think it is only right and fitting that I should also record his abiding love for the town and State of Malacca.

His home in Heeren Street was a place which Malaccans would point out with pride, and his whole life was so identified with the spirit of his own town that he was often known as "the Sage of Malacca".

It was very appropriate therefore, that the last rites of respect we could pay to him should have taken place in the town he loved.

Tun Tan will always have a place in the minds and hearts of Malaysians, now and in generations to come as a man of peace, tolerance and goodwill, as an exponent of a truly Malayan way of life, and as an example of how a life imbued with loyalty can radiate an influence for good throughout the nation.

I think that this House would like to place on record here that the people of the Federation of Malaya feel a sense of deep regret and national loss through the death of Tun Tan Cheng Lock of Malacca, that he was a man who has earned our immortal memory for the way he lived his own life in the service of our people and this country, being indeed one of the leaders and fathers of our independence.

And in expressing our feelings on his passing away I am sure everyone in this House will wish to extend to his loyal and faithful widow, Toh Puan Tan Cheng Lock and to all the members of his sorrowing family our deep sympathy with them in their sad and grievous bereavement."



The Minister of Finance visits his Ancestors' Grave Yard
Malin Hill, Malacca 2.3.64
The Minister of Finance paying his respects to his ancestors.



The Minister of Finance visits his Ancestors' Grave Yard
Malin Hill, Malacca 2.3.64.

The Minister of Finance Enche Tan paid a visit to his great grandfather Tan Choon Bock's grave yard at Malin Hill about six miles from Malacca. Picture shows the Minister explaining to pressmen and others the particulars of his ancestors.

TUN TAN CHENG LOCK AN HONOURED PLACE IN MALAYA HISTORY

Tun Tan Cheng Lock played a notable part in the country's public life, both before and after the Pacific War.

As a member of the former Straits Settlements Legislative Council, he championed many reforms for his community, including the introduction of legislation for monogamous marriages.

Tun Tan was outspoken and eloquent, and was often referred to as the "silver-tongued" councillor.

He seldom, if ever, had a written speech before him.

He listed his main points on a small card, which he held in his left palm, cupped between the fingers, and as he finished one point he would glance at the card and go on to the next theme.

Useful though his contributions were to the public life of the then Straits Settlements, it was his work after the Pacific War for which he will always be remembered.

As founder of the Malayan Chinese Association, which was later to become a partner of the present ruling party in the Federation—the Alliance—he found a niche in Malayan history.

In fact, he was one of the architects of the Alliance with Tengku Abdul Rahman, Tun Lee Hau Shik and others.

During the Emergency (1948–60) he was a major political figure.

As president of the M.C.A., he was a target of the Communist terrorists.

Tun Tan took part in the "peace talks" at Baling at Christmas 1955, attended by Tengku Abdul Rahman, Mr. David Marshall, then Chief Minister of Singapore, and Chin Peng, secretary-general of the Malayan Communist Party.



New Bridge Kim Seng (right) Old Dutch Building in the back ground, Malacca (This is a Malacca Town Scene).



Malacca June, 1959, The Beach at Tanjong Kling (This is a Malacca Coastal Scene).