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Adapted from speech at
the Official Launch of *The Judgments of
HRH Sultan Azlan Shah with Commentary*,
editor, Visu Sinnadurai,
28 February 1986, Kuala Lumpur.

A Tribute by Tun Hussein Onn

Former Prime Minister of Malaysia

As an exemplary legal officer, His Majesty Sultan Azlan Shah has always been regarded as one of the most outstanding judges in the Malaysian judiciary. His Majesty is well known for his firmness in upholding justice. As far as His Majesty is concerned, no person is above the law, nor is anyone entitled to any special consideration. He firmly believes that everyone is equal before the law and that no one should be accorded special treatment. This principle he upheld both in words and in deeds and he was determined to do justice both to the accused and to the State.

His Majesty contributed a lot to the development of Malaysian law. Although a member of the Perak Royal family, as a legal officer he was very much in touch with both the elite and the masses. It is his ability and willingness to understand, appreciate and be aware of the problems of the ordinary citizens that has enabled him to make a substantial contribution to the development of Malaysian law since independence. He was conscious of the changes



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that were taking place in the country and was keen and flexible enough to modify and adapt the laws to suit local conditions and circumstances.

As a Ruler, His Majesty takes great pains to keep abreast with affairs of the State. He has made attempts to meet, to know and to understand State officials and to learn the problems that the State is faced with. Despite his responsibilities and busy schedule, he takes a keen interest in education and sports. He has been the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia since 1971 and Chairman of the Advisory Council on Higher Education since 1974.

In sports, his main interest lies in hockey. His Majesty is the President of the Hockey Federation of Malaysia, President of the Asian Hockey Federation and Vice-President of the International Hockey Federation. He is also a very keen golfer.

I am sure that Malaysians in general are indeed proud to have a Sultan who has served the country with great distinction. The people of Perak in particular will undoubtedly benefit from the wisdom of a Ruler who has vast experience in the Malaysian judiciary.

Truly, His Majesty not only possesses leadership qualities but also has demonstrated those qualities with excellence. He is a man who practises what he preaches. This is another important hallmark of a great leader who has lived up to the principles that he professes. I am proud to say that he is one of the few models of leadership by example. 

