In 1951, Datuk Onn made a proposal that was far ahead of its time—he wanted UMNO to be a party for all races. He resigned when this proposal met with resistance from party members, and went on to found the Independent Malaya Party (IMP). Tunku succeeded him as president of UMNO that year. His leadership and persuasiveness were instrumental in securing a landslide victory at the UMNO election on May 31, 1951.

Tunku’s dream of a Malaysia that transcended racial lines would manifest itself in another form. Tunku knew that the diverse communities must unite for the greater good—Malaysia’s independence.

He formed an alliance with the MCA, and together they won the multi-ethnic elections across Malaya from 1951 to 1955. As the possibility of an independent Britain died, state and federal elections were held for the first time. Tunku and his alliance got 52 out of 52 contested seats at the general election in 1951, proving that a united front was crucial to make freedom a reality.

Tunku was keen to build our independence peacefully, much to the chagrin of the Communist militants. Many attacks were committed including the assassination of British High Commissioner Sir Evelyn Baring in 1950. Tunku’s leadership was an exercise in maintaining unity among ethnic groups with the repatriation of the Communist insurgents.

Be an advocate of unity and harmony

Tunku served as the first Prime Minister of the new independent Malaya, but the drive for independence in neighbouring territories had been brewing. The formation of the Alliance, which was composed of the UMNO, MCA and the word of the Alliance to the National Congress (MCA) and was a formidable force in the nation. Tunku’s leadership was crucial in maintaining the unity of the multi-ethnic society.

Given his character, Tunku loathed divisiveness and promoted a united front. He was always mindful of the bigger picture of unity. Always be mindful of the fact that unity is not only a political goal, but a moral one. As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

The single most important challenge for any leader is to ensure that the past is not repeated. Understand the nation’s history before implementation. As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

The twin enemies of national transformation

Understanding the nation’s history is not about nostalgia; it is about learning from the past. As George Santayana once said, “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.”

There is something very wrong with the state of leadership when the way we earn credibility is by discrediting others. A good name is earned by being blameless, not by blaming.

The ONE CHALLENGE

The single most important challenge for any national leadership is that of rallying everyone behind the national dream. As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

National transformation can only happen when every individual takes on personal accountability to change the current state of affairs. Allowing our independence is only the starting point, the commitment to independence is the bedrock to a united transformation.

Are you willing to do your part?

LEADERNOMICS

As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

Understanding the nation’s history is not about nostalgia; it is about learning from the past. As George Santayana once said, “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.”

There is something very wrong with the state of leadership when the way we earn credibility is by discrediting others. A good name is earned by being blameless, not by blaming.

The ONE CHALLENGE

The single most important challenge for any national leadership is that of rallying everyone behind the national dream. As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

National transformation can only happen when every individual takes on personal accountability to change the current state of affairs. Allowing our independence is only the starting point, the commitment to independence is the bedrock to a united transformation.

Are you willing to do your part?

LEADERNOMICS

As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

Understanding the nation’s history is not about nostalgia; it is about learning from the past. As George Santayana once said, “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.”

There is something very wrong with the state of leadership when the way we earn credibility is by discrediting others. A good name is earned by being blameless, not by blaming.

The ONE CHALLENGE

The single most important challenge for any national leadership is that of rallying everyone behind the national dream. As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

National transformation can only happen when every individual takes on personal accountability to change the current state of affairs. Allowing our independence is only the starting point, the commitment to independence is the bedrock to a united transformation.

Are you willing to do your part?

LEADERNOMICS

As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

Understanding the nation’s history is not about nostalgia; it is about learning from the past. As George Santayana once said, “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.”

There is something very wrong with the state of leadership when the way we earn credibility is by discrediting others. A good name is earned by being blameless, not by blaming.

The ONE CHALLENGE

The single most important challenge for any national leadership is that of rallying everyone behind the national dream. As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

National transformation can only happen when every individual takes on personal accountability to change the current state of affairs. Allowing our independence is only the starting point, the commitment to independence is the bedrock to a united transformation.

Are you willing to do your part?

LEADERNOMICS

As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

Understanding the nation’s history is not about nostalgia; it is about learning from the past. As George Santayana once said, “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.”

There is something very wrong with the state of leadership when the way we earn credibility is by discrediting others. A good name is earned by being blameless, not by blaming.

The ONE CHALLENGE

The single most important challenge for any national leadership is that of rallying everyone behind the national dream. As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

National transformation can only happen when every individual takes on personal accountability to change the current state of affairs. Allowing our independence is only the starting point, the commitment to independence is the bedrock to a united transformation.

Are you willing to do your part?

LEADERNOMICS

As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

Understanding the nation’s history is not about nostalgia; it is about learning from the past. As George Santayana once said, “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.”

There is something very wrong with the state of leadership when the way we earn credibility is by discrediting others. A good name is earned by being blameless, not by blaming.

The ONE CHALLENGE

The single most important challenge for any national leadership is that of rallying everyone behind the national dream. As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

National transformation can only happen when every individual takes on personal accountability to change the current state of affairs. Allowing our independence is only the starting point, the commitment to independence is the bedrock to a united transformation.

Are you willing to do your part?

LEADERNOMICS

As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

Understanding the nation’s history is not about nostalgia; it is about learning from the past. As George Santayana once said, “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.”

There is something very wrong with the state of leadership when the way we earn credibility is by discrediting others. A good name is earned by being blameless, not by blaming.

The ONE CHALLENGE

The single most important challenge for any national leadership is that of rallying everyone behind the national dream. As the weight of the national dream lays on our shoulders, we must ensure that the remnants of past history is spared because it is a reminder of the past. We should learn from it.

National transformation can only happen when every individual takes on personal accountability to change the current state of affairs. Allowing our independence is only the starting point, the commitment to independence is the bedrock to a unite...