



**PRESS RELEASE
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**YM Tan Sri Dato' Paduka Tengku Noor Zakiah Tengku Ismail
Launches Autobiography
*Malaysia's Pioneering Stockbroker***

Kuala Lumpur, 25 September 2019 – Kenanga Investment Bank Berhad's Founder and Adviser YM Tan Sri Dato' Paduka Tengku Noor Zakiah Tengku Ismail (Tan Sri Tengku Noor Zakiah) released her memoir today, which captures her journey and life stories as a Malaysian entrepreneur. The launch was in conjunction with her 93rd birthday celebration.

Titled 'Tengku Noor Zakiah: Malaysia's Pioneering Stockbroker', the memoir was published by MPH Group Publishing and chronicles her many successes which include co-founding K&N Kenanga Sdn Bhd in 1973 with Tuan Haji Kamaruddin Taha, and her efforts in transforming it into Kenanga Investment Bank Berhad, the largest independent investment bank in Malaysia, as it is known today.

"When I look at Kenanga today, I see that, together, we have created something immensely wonderful and rewarding on so many levels, which I could not have foreseen when I first started working, let alone when I was still that little girl sewing her first baju kurung or making a profit from jasmine garlands," said Tan Sri Tengku Noor Zakiah.

The book details the origins of the company name, which was inspired by the Kenanga flowers that grew on the Mengkebang Estate managed by her father, as well as her ventures into the stock market in the 1960s where she eventually acquired her stock broking license and co-founded the investment company she has become synonymous with today.

"Tengku Noor Zakiah's autobiography tells not only her story but the story of Malaysia. Told through a series of vignettes, interwoven with key moments from the nation's history, we see how the family values and entrepreneurial spirit honed in her youth have shaped her into the formidable businesswomen she is today. A truly remarkable book about a truly remarkable Malaysian," said Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, Group CEO of Air Asia.



Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, Malaysia's former Minister of International Trade and Industry, describes Tan Sri Dato' Paduka Tengku Noor as an inspiration to young women and men. "The memoirs of Tengku Noor Zakiah will spur the young adults of Malaysia to strive to benchmark their performance to the highest level possible, and venture into new sectors continuously being opened up by the process of globalization. Tengku Noor Zakiah is an inspiration as she continues to prove that there is no barrier for success in any endeavour."

According to Datuk Mohaiyani Shamsudin, Chairman of Maybank, Tan Sri Tengku Noor Zakiah is no ordinary woman as she has set aside nobility to take on challenges in a unique way. "Tengku Noor Zakiah is truly an epitome of success not just for being the first lady stockbroker in Malaysia but for transforming the firm she started in 1964 into the independent investment bank it is today: Kenanga Investment Futures."

"Tengku Noor Zakiah is a great role model and example to all Malaysians, and especially women. She deserves all the success she's achieved as it's all built with resilience as humility," said Tan Sri Azman Hashim, Chairman of AmBank Group and shared his best wishes for Tan Sri Tengku Noor Zakiah.

Copies of 'Tengku Noor Zakiah: Malaysia's Pioneering Stockbroker' are available at MPH Bookstores nationwide for RM40 (softcover) and RM60 (hardcover).

For more information on Kenanga Group, please visit www.kenanga.com.my.

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BOOK SYNOPSIS

FROM SILVER AND SILK TO STOCKS: THE LIFE OF MALAYSIA'S PIONEERING STOCKBROKER

"A life that has spanned over 90 years does give you time to mull over some successes," writes Tan Sri Dato' Paduka Tengku Noor Zakiah Tengku Ismail in her upcoming memoir, *Tengku Noor Zakiah: Malaysia's Pioneering Stockbroker*, published by MPH Group Publishing. Among those successes include being the first pioneering woman stockbroker, co-founding K&N Kenanga Sdn Bhd in 1973 with Tuan Haji Kamaruddin Taha, and seeing it morph into Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd, an award-winning independent investment bank.

But Tan Sri Dato' Paduka Tengku Noor Zakiah had quite the headstart in business, thanks in part to her parents' entrepreneurial spirit and her early childhood on Mengkebang Estate in Kelantan, which her father managed. "I was about seven years old when I made money for the first time," she recalls. "In front of my father's office on the estate were five big *kenanga* or ylang-ylang trees. Their large yellow flowers hung face down, and the edges of their petals would become frilly as they blossomed. I loved the flowers, and one of my father's assistants would sometimes hoist me on his shoulders so I could pluck them."

But after her father declared the *kenanga* trees off limits, she decided to make and sell garlands of jasmine flowers instead. "We did this several times and each time I was able to make a few cents." She even sewed a *baju kebaya* for a customer.

Tan Sri Dato' Paduka Tengku Noor Zakiah would eventually open her own dress shop, followed by a retail venture called Silver & Silk in the 1960s. Around this time, she started dabbling in the stock market, and would later acquire a stockbroking licence and co-found a stockbroking firm named partly for the flowers that grew on Mengkebang Estate.

"People who don't know me very well probably think that I sometimes act on a whim," she notes, talking about her decision to go into stockbroking. "But I generally have good instincts and I learnt over the years to act on them without being held back by second thoughts."

Nor was this leap driven by the desire to become the first pioneering woman stockbroker in Malaysia. "It has never been my intention to be the first woman to do anything; it was always enough for me to try new things and to seize opportunities when they came along. I then made sure to learn from my mistakes and from the people I met who had something to teach me. These were all things I had seen my father do when I was a little girl."

The memoir also traces Tan Sri Dato' Paduka Tengku Noor Zakiah's roots to an 18th-century Patani warlord and her connections with the Kelantan royal family, and charts her life in a rubber estate in Kelantan and beyond. It is not merely her story but the story of Kenanga, her family and the people and places that have shaped her into who she is today.

“I helped to found this company but I have not been the only one to dictate its path since then,” she states. “What I made in this world has been through my effort but also because I have always been able to find the right people to help me and to work with me. When I look at Kenanga today, I see that, together, we have created something immensely wonderful and rewarding on so many levels, which I could not have foreseen when I first started working, let alone when I was still that little girl sewing her first *baju kurung* or making a profit from jasmine garlands.”

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Praise for *Tengku Noor Zakiah: Malaysia's Pioneering Stockbroker*:

“Tengku Noor Zakiah’s autobiography tells not only her story but the story of Malaysia. Through a series of vignettes, interwoven with key moments from the nation’s history, we see how the family values and entrepreneurial spirit honed in her youth have shaped her into the formidable businesswoman she is today. A truly remarkable story about a truly remarkable Malaysian.”

Tan Sri Tony Fernandes
Group CEO, AirAsia

“I have known Tengku Noor Zakiah for nearly 40 years but throughout the time when I saw her regularly she had never told me how amazing her life has been, for she has always been so modest and self-effacing that, although we talked a lot, she never let on how difficult her life had been in the early years before we met.

“In every chapter her human side is quietly shown with fascinating bits about her family life, her friends and what there was to eat!

“Her memoirs cover every aspect of what happened in Thailand and Malaysia over her long and successful life and I commend her story to anyone, whether they are interested in Southeast Asia or not.”

Lord Douglas-Home
The Earl of Home, KT, CVO, CBE

“I would like to firstly offer my heartiest congratulations to Tengku Noor Zakiah on the publication of her memoirs. Certainly, ‘Kak Engku’, as I refer to her, broke new ground in a sector that was previously the domain of men, i.e., the financial sector. I knew her when her office was in the Bank Negara building and I was a trainee there, being on the bank’s scholarship to study at the University of Malaya.

“She clearly joined the very early women pioneers who made their mark in sectors that were not identified with women’s participation, and made the nation proud with their subsequent successes.

“While it is to be lauded that pioneers such as Kak Engku are women, it is not their gender that is the important factor. It is their competence, capabilities and skills that have made them successful. They were there not because they were women, but because they had the knowledge and skills, and they excelled in what they did.

“It is inspiring that Kak Engku, at her age now, is still actively involved in the company she founded. It goes to prove that gender, age, creed and faith are no barriers to anyone wishing to succeed in any endeavour.

“Kak Engku’s memoirs will spur both young women and men to strive to benchmark their performances to the highest level possible, and venture into the new sectors that are being continuously opened up by the process of globalisation and the rapid evolution of knowledge-based economies. Especially so, where there is that array of support systems to complement the human initiative, motivation and strong resolve.”

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz

Former Minister of International Trade and Industry

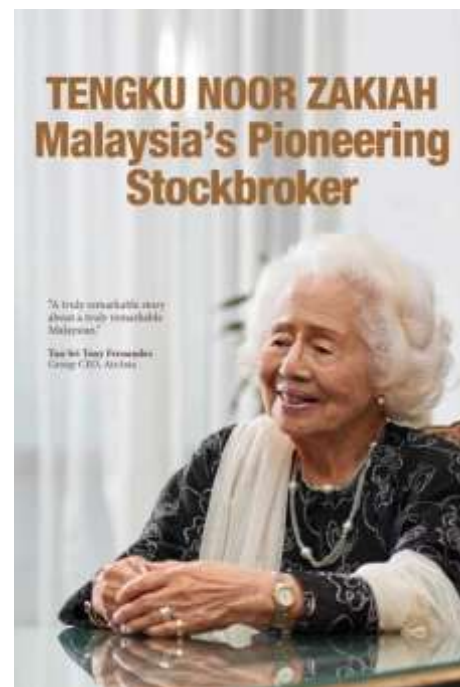
“You (Tan Sri Dato’ Paduka Tengku Noor Zakiah) are a great role model to all Malaysians, especially women. You deserve all the great success you have achieved—all built with humility and resilience. Wishing you good health and happiness always.”

Tan Sri Azman Hashim

Chairman, AmBank Group

ABOUT THE BOOK

Title: Tengku Noor Zakiah:
Malaysia’s Pioneering Stockbroker
Language: English
Author: Tengku Noor Zakiah
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Biography
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About Kenanga Investment Bank Berhad (15678-H)

Established for more than 40 years, Kenanga Investment Bank Berhad ('the Group') is a financial group in Malaysia with extensive experience in equity broking, investment banking, treasury, Islamic banking, listed derivatives, investment management, wealth management, structured lending and trade financing. Today, it is an award-winning leading independent investment bank in the country with a continuous commitment towards driving collaboration, innovation and digitalisation in the marketplace.

Kenanga Investment Bank Berhad is the largest independent investment bank* in Malaysia by equity trading volume and value, as well as, one of the top brokerage houses with the largest network of remisiers. Its fast-growing client base enjoys convenience through more than 30 locations throughout Malaysia.

The Group has garnered a host of awards and accolades reflecting its strong market position. It was awarded Most Innovative Participating Organisation and Best Retail Equities Participating Organisation (1st Runner Up) by Bursa Malaysia. Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd, the Group's joint venture with Japan's Rakuten Securities, Inc. was named FinTech Company of the Year.

The Group received Best Dividend Yield at Focus Malaysia's Best Under Billion Awards 2018, and it clinched 'Deal of the Year 2018' from Islamic Finance News for its innovative Sukuk programme. The Group's asset management subsidiary, Kenanga Investors Berhad is a regular and repeat recipient of distinguished industry accolades, such as the Lipper, Fundsupermart and Morningstar awards.

The Group's listed derivatives subsidiary, Kenanga Futures Sdn Bhd ('KF') was awarded Best Trading Participant for Equity and Financial Derivatives by Bursa Malaysia, maintaining its market leadership for the 15th consecutive year. KF was also accorded the titles 1st Runner-Up for Best Overall Derivatives Trading Participant and 2nd Runner-Up for Best Institutional Derivatives Trading Participant.

For its continued efforts towards community outreach and employee volunteerism, the Group was awarded the coveted CSR Award (Investment Bank) at the CSR Malaysia Awards 2019, an award endorsed by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Family Planning.

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