Revisiting The origins of The Alliance

by

Joseph M. Fernando

The alliance assumed the reigns of power from the British colonial administration on 31 August 1957 when Malaya gained independence. In contrast to nationalist movements in other parts of Asia such as India and Indonesia which had been active since the early decades of the last century, the Alliance had only five years of history behind them. Within this short period the Alliance transformed from an ad hoc coalition for the 1952 Kuala Lumpur municipal elections into the main nationalist movement by 1954, and, after the first general elections of July 1955, formed the government. Subsequently, the Alliance was able to secure independence from Britain within two years. While much has been written of the latter phases of the development of the Alliance, its origins has received scarce attention.

Karl von Vorys, for example, in his analysis of the Malaysian political scene, examines the workings of the Alliance as a political organisation but only briefly with its origins. K.J. Ratnam, in his study on communalism in Malaya, and G.P. Means, in his general survey of Malaysian history, pay greater attention to the campaign for independence and the working of the Alliance government. R.K. Vasil meanwhile, treats the subject summarily while others have focused on the three communal components of the Alliance: UMNO, MCA
Sejarah

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