MANICKA DIES OF HEART ATTACK

TRANSPORT Minister and MIC president Tan Sri V. Manickavasagam died of a heart attack here today. He was 53.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam, who started off as a businessman before 15 years of service in the Cabinet, leaves five children.

He complained of "feeling like fainting" at hishouse here at about 7 pm and collapsed.

The senior physician and director of the General Hospital, Prof. Datuk R.P. Pillay, said he was rushed to hospital but died on the way.

Prof. Datuk Pillay said the cause of death was acute myocardial infarction (blockage of the artery).

KUALA LUMPUR, Friday

Tan Sri Manickavasagam had been ailing for some time and underwent heart surgery in London in 1976.

He had celebrated his 53rd birthday just eight days ago.

A founder member of the MIC, he joined the Government as Assistant Minister of Labour in 1959 and joined the Cabinet as Labour Minister in 1964 to become its longest-serving member.

He was also one of the longest-serving Members of Parliament, having represented his Pelabohan Kelang Constituency (formerly Klang) since 1950.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam went for a medical check-up in London about a month ago but continued with his busy schedule on his return.

MIC secretary-general Senator M. Mahalingam said the funeral would be on Sunday at a time to be announced later.

The body would be taken from the house at 6, Lorong Duta here for cremation in Klang.

Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdullah Ayub were among the first to call at Tan Sri Manickavasagam's house.

Other early callers were Dewan Negara President Tun Sri Omar Yoke-Lin Ong, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Syed Nasir Ismail, Works and Utilities Minister and MCA president Datuk Lee San Choon, Primary Industries Minister and Gerakansecretary-general Datuk Paul Leong. and Deputy Labour and **Manpower Minister Datuk K. Pathmunaban.**

Tan Sri Manickavasagam spent the whole of today at his office, returning home at about 6 pm.

Soon after he complained to his eldest son, Petronas executive Ramani, that ho was feeling dizzy and asked for his brother Dr. Rajagopal.

Me also asked for his brother Mr V.L. Kandan, Selangor State Executive Councillor, before he collapsed.

Dr. Rajagopal immediately summoned an ambulance before going to Tan Sri Manickavasagam's house.

Datuk Pathmanaban saidTanSriManickavasagam had only today fixed the wedding date for his second daughter Kasturi, who is studying in Australia.

Kasturi and his second son Rejendra, who is working in London, are flying home. His two other daughters, Indra and Kalyani, are also married.

Tan Sri Manickava

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THE LATE TAN SRI MANICKA

Manicka dies at 53

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sagam leaves behind two grandchildren, two sons-in-law, two daughters-in-law, three brothers and two sisters.

All MIC functions have been cancelled till further notice and a mourning period would be announced later.

The party's deputy president, Datuk S. Samy Vellu, was in Kluang when he was informed of the death.

People began streaming in soon as news of the death wan heard

Agriculture Minister Datuk Shariff Ahmad and Welfare Minister Datin Paduka Hajjah Aishah Ghani also paid their last respects tonight.

About 200 MIC and Barisan Nasional members had already gathered at the house by midnight.—Bernama.