

MAGICKA
DIES

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 his house 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).

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

KUALA LUMPUR,
Friday --

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

OF HEART ATTACK

Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Syed Nansir Ismail, Works and Utilities Minister and MCA president Datuk Lee San Choon, Primary Industries Minister and gerakan secretary-general Datuk Paul Leong and Deputy Labour and Manpower Minister Datuk K. Pathmanaban.

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 he was feeling dizzy and asked for his brother Dr. Rajagopal.

Ho also asked for his brother Mr V.L. Randan, Selangor State



THE LATE TAN SRI MANICKA

Executive Councillor, before he collapsed.

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

Datuk Pathmanaban said Tan Sri Manickavasagam 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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MANICKA - A MAN DEVOTED TO DUTIES

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Failing health did not deter Tan Sri V. Manickavasagam from continuing to carry out his duties as Transport Minister.

He devoted his time to solving numerous transportation problems and had made efforts to overcome the transportation woes of the residents of the federal capital.

Although the problems still remain, Tan Sri Manickavasagam has laid the groundwork for their long-term solution.

Another sector of the transportation field that has drawn his attention is air transport which he had hoped could be turned into an efficient and competent service.

Apart from the expansion of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and other airports in the country, the building of new airports were continued.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam also worked tirelessly to develop the country's ports and the sea transportation industry.

One of his last acts was to introduce the "cabotage" policy to be put into practice next year to increase local participation in local and international

shipping.

To cope with the expected increase in shipping activities, Tan Sri Manickavasagam had drawn up a programme to open new ports at Pasir Gudang, Johore, and at Kuantan.

At the same time, better and more modern facilities would be installed at existing ports.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam came under great pres-

sure from various quarters over the damage at the Kuantan Port.

In his last appearance in the Dewan Rakyat on Thursday, he had appealed to opposition members not to turn the problem at the Kuantan Port into a political issue.

As MIC president, he had succeeded in consoli-

dating the position of the party in representing the interests of Malaysians of Indian origin.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam took over the party leadership in June 1973 after the late Tun V.T. Sambanthan stepped down from the post.

He was returned unopposed as president for another term at the party's delegates conference this year.

Tan Manickavasagam was the longest-serving member of the Cabinet, having served under three Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman, the late Tun Abdul Razak and Datuk Hussein Onn.

JOINED

He first joined Tunku Abdul Rahman's Cabinet in 1964 after retaining the Klang Parliamentary seat. He was given the Labour portfolio.

He has represented the Klang constituency (now Pelabuhan Kelang) since the 1969 elections.

He re-took the seat in last year's general election with a thumping majority of more than 11,000 votes.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam was a gentle man and had a good relationship with everyone including members of the opposition.