

# MPs pay tribute to Hussein Onn

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THE Dewan Rakyat recorded its deepest sense of loss on the death of Tun Hussein Onn and extended its condolence to his wife Toh Puan Suhaila and family.

In tabling the motion, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mofiamad said with the death of Tun Hussein the nation had lost a respected leader and statesmen whose sacrifice and struggle in the political field and in administrating the country was a source of inspiration for the people.

"The late Tun Hussein was a much respected Prime Minister. He was a leader who loved peace and who was firm and prudent in making decisions.

"His qualities of being firm, honest, sincere and understanding the people's problems are highly regarded by the people and during his lifetime he was accorded the title 'Father of Development'." he said.

The Dewan Rakyat also observed a minute's silence and offered prayers to the late Tun Hussein.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir recapped Tun Hussein's early education, his military career and his in-

volvement in politics which led him to be appointed the third Prime Minister of the country.

Dr Mahathir said Tun Hussein was also active in social and welfare work and among the positions he held included being president of the Malaysian Association for the Blind and chairman of the Tun Hussein Onn Eye Hospital.

"He was made the honorary life member of the Red Crescent Society in 1984 for his dedication and service to welfare and social work.

"Even after Tun Hussein retired as Prime Minister, he continued to contribute his energy and to serve the nation and society. He was appointed advisor to Petronas and chairman of Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

"For his dedication and service to the nation he was

awarded the Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara (Class One) which carried the title 'Tun' by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong."

Dr Mahathir said Tun Hussein's passing away was greatly felt by the people because the late Prime Minister loved unity and harmony in the country.

"I, on behalf of the Government, hope the family of Tun Hussein will be strong and patient in their grief."

MCA president and Transport Minister Datuk Dr Ling Liong Sik, who seconded the motion, said the death of Tun Hussein was a great loss to the Chinese community.

"He was a leader who was tolerant, moderate and of high principles. He was an exemplary statesman. All Malaysians felt fortunate to have had him as

Prime Minister.

"Tun Hussein always believed in consultation and never in confrontation, which made him a popular leader," he said.

MIC president and Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said Tun Hussein's passing away was deeply felt not only by those in high Government but also people at all levels of society.

"He was a reknowned leader from a family which had contributed much to the nation. He is an irreplaceable leader," he said.

Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Tanjung) said Tun Hussein will shine in Malaysian history for his impeccable personal integrity and abhorrence of corruption.

"I believe that the best way to perpetuate the memory of the late Tun Hussein is for the Government to make bold moves in areas which deeply concerned him even after he had stepped down," he said.

Semangat 46 deputy president Datuk Rais Yatim said Tun Hussein was a fatherly figure who had a positive effect on democracy in the country.

"He was a gentleman in politics and in personal life whose deeds and actions should be emulated by present-day leaders and politicians," he said.

Others who paid tribute to Tun Hussein were Dr Goh Cheng Teik (BN-Nibong Tebal), Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud and backbencher Mohamed Tawfik Ismail (Sungai Benut).