

PM: TUNKU'S DEATH A GREAT LOSS TO NATION

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DATUK SERI Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described the demise of Tunku Abdul Rahman as a great loss for Umno, the people and the country.

"The late Tunku has made immeasurable contributions to the country," the Prime Minister said in a statement yesterday morning.

Dr Mahathir said the first Prime Minister was not only a prominent factor which brought independence for the country but he also succeeded in forming Malaysia.

"The country has lost a premier statesman and leader. As for me, my love and respect for the late Tunku has never wavered and I greatly mourn his passing," he added.

The Prime Minister prayed that Allah would bless the Tunku's soul.

Dr Mahathir also conveyed a con-

lence message, on behalf of the government, to the Tunku's widow Tun Sharifah Rodziah and family members.

Dr Mahathir said that during his lifetime, the Tunku had given his efforts to other fields such as sports and welfare.

After his retirement as Prime Minister, the Tunku was appointed the first secretary-general to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah and concentrated on developing and uniting Muslims, Dr Mahathir said.

"Despite his retirement, the late Tunku continued to contribute to national progress, particularly in social work and developing the Malaysian Muslim Welfare Organisation (Perkim)," he added.