
We have lost an eminent statesman, says Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-haj was an eminent statesman and a leader who had made immeasurable contributions to the nation, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir said his passing was a loss to Umno, the people and the country.

In his tribute to the Tunku, the Prime Minister said his love and respect for the Tunku had never wavered, and greatly mourned his passing.

Dr Mahathir's full message of condolence reads:

"The passing of Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-haj is a great loss to Umno, the people and the nation. The Tunku had made immeasurable contributions to the nation.

"The Tunku did not only play a primary role in bringing independence to the country, but he also succeeded in forming Malaysia. During his lifetime, the Tunku made im-

mense contributions in other fields like sports and welfare.

"After retiring from his post as Prime Minister, the Tunku was appointed the inaugural Secretary-General to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah. In the organisation, he concentrated on efforts for the progress and unity of the *ummah*.

"Although retired, the Tunku continued to contribute towards national progress, particularly in the welfare and development of the Malaysia Muslim Welfare Organisation (Perkim).

"The nation has lost an eminent statesman and leader. As for me, my love and respect for the late Tunku never wavered and I greatly mourn his passing.

"May Allah bless the Tunku's soul.

"On behalf of the Government, I wish to extend my condolences to the Tunku's widow, Tun Sharifah Rodziah, and family."