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MAHATHIR SENDS CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO TURKISH PRIME MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, April 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today sent a message to his Turkish counterpart Suleyman Demirel, expressing condolences on the death of President Turgut Ozal on Saturday.

In the message, he expressed sorrow and his deepest sympathy to the family of the late President, Wisma Putra said in a statement here.

He said: "It was a great shock for me to learn of the sudden demise of your President Turgut Ozal. His passing at this critical juncture in the history of Turkey is a great loss to your country and people.

"The government and the people of Malaysia join me in mourning this great loss to your government and to the people of Turkey."

Ozal, who died of a heart attack, would be remembered as a leader who contributed immensely to the development of Turkey and to the solidarity of Muslim nations, he added.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in a similar message to his counterpart Hikmat Cetin, expressed shock and regret. -- Bernama

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