

16 OCT 1996
Chee Khoon
LAST JOURNEY FOR MR OPPOSITION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- One of Malaysia's famous sons, "Mr Opposition" Tan Sri Dr Tan Chee Khoon, who died last Sunday, was laid to rest at noon today at the Cheras Cemetery here.

Earlier, about 500 people from all walks of life attended a funeral service conducted by Bishop Emeritus Datuk Dr Denis Dutton at the Wesley Methodist Church in Jalan Stadium.

Among the dignitaries who attended the service were Deputy Land and Cooperative Development Minister Dr Goh Cheng Teik, Petaling Jaya Utara Member of Parliament Lim Kuo Pau and former deputy minister of national unity and community development Datuk Alex Lee.

About an hour later, the hearse bearing Tan's coffin left for the cemetery.

Students of the nearby Methodist Boys' School lined the road up to the church entrance to pay their last respects.

Accompanying the hearse were five buses ferrying family members and friends escorted by two police outriders and a patrol car.

The cortege passed through Jalan Loke Yew and Jalan Cheras en route to the burial ground.

Kuala Lumpur-born Dr Tan died after a long illness, aged 77. He leaves a wife Puan Sri Liew Foong Ying, 74, three daughters and three sons.

The late Dr Tan, who was an MP almost two decades, was paralysed and unable to speak after his second stroke on Oct 10, 1993.

In his tribute to Dr Tan on Monday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government valued his role as "Mr Opposition" who had revealed government weaknesses, deviations and wrongdoings.

Dr Mahathir had said that this was in line with the democratic process as the government could be corrected. -- BERNAMA

YBK/rn Jk