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MAHATHIR PRAISES ZAIN AZRAAI FOR CONTRIBUTING TO COUNTRY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today praised Tan Sri Zain Azraai Zainal Abidin, who died on Saturday of lung cancer, for his contributions to the country.

"We owe him a lot, the nation owes him a lot," he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang on his return from official visits to the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia.

"I feel very sad that a relatively young person should die," he said.

"He comes from an illustrious family who had contributed much towards the struggle for independence," said Dr Mahathir, who has sent a letter of condolence to the family of Zain Azraai.

The late Zain Azraai was laid to rest at the Jalan Ampang Muslim cemetery here yesterday. He was 60 years old.

A highly-respected diplomat, Zain Azraai had served as Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and as Finance Ministry Secretary-General.

He was chairman of Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF) and served on the boards of several other companies at the time of his death. -- BERNAMA

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