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LEADALL Ismail-Died  
TUN ISMAIL DIES

KUALA LUMPUR, July 6 (Bernama) -- Tun Ismail Mohamed Ali, whose name was synonymous with Bank Negara, died due to complications from flu at the Ampang Puteri Specialist Hospital, here, today.

His eldest son, Iskandar, said Tun Ismail, 79, was admitted to the hospital one-and-the-half weeks ago.

"He passed away just before 11 am. He was admitted with flu but unfortunately his resistance was low and one thing led to another. He had an aneurism burst," he said when contacted.

Tun Ismail's body was brought back to his residence at 23, Jalan Taman U Thant. He was buried at the Ampang Muslim Cemetery at 5.30pm after the Asar prayers.

The former Bank Negara governor was a brother-in-law of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is married to his younger sister, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah paid their last respects at Tun Ismail's residence.

Cabinet ministers and scores of relatives, friends and corporate figures were also present at the residence. Among them were Special Functions Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and former finance minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Those at the cemetery included Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman and Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Tun Ismail leaves two sons, Iskander, a merchant banker, and Ahmad Kamal, an architect, and five grandsons.

His wife, Toh Puan Maimunah Abdul Latiff, died two years ago.

Regarded as one of Malaysia's most gifted bankers, Tun Ismail was governor of Bank Negara from 1962 to 1980, setting the record as the longest-serving Central Bank governor in Asia.

For his service, he was conferred the distinguished title of "Tun" in 1980 upon receiving the Seri Setia Mahkota, the nation's highest civilian award.

Prior to his death, he was adviser of Permodalan Nasional Berhad, the government's equity investment arm.

Tun Ismail was a rare personality who commanded utmost respect both as a public servant and a corporate pillar when he served as Sime Darby chairman, among others.

The Cambridge-qualified lawyer was born on Sept 9, 1918, in Port Klang. He received his early education at the Batu Road Boys' School and Victoria Institution, here.

He was appointed Minister in the Malayan Embassy in the United States in 1957 and a year later, was made executive director in the World Bank and its affiliates.

Tun Ismail returned to become Bank Negara Deputy Governor in 1960 prior to his promotion to the top post.

His banking acumen earned him many accolades at home and abroad. He had served as president of the Malaysian Institute of Management and chairman of the Council of the Institute of Bankers, Malaysia, which conferred him the highest honour of a life membership in 1986.

Until his death, he was a member of the board of governors of the Manila-based Asian Institute of Management, a post he had held since 1971.

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