

03 FEB 1999

Queen

DR MAHATHIR AND CABINET MEMBERS PAY LAST RESPECTS TO QUEEN

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad led members of the Cabinet to pay last respects to Malaysia's first queen the late Tunku Puan Besar Kurshiah Almarhum Tunku Besar Burhanuddin at Istana Negara here today.

Tunku Puan Besar Kurshiah died at the Royal Ward of the Kuala Lumpur Hospital at 4.50 pm yesterday, aged 87.

Dr Mahathir and the cabinet members arrived at Istana Negara at 9 am.

Wife of the prime minister Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali also paid her last respects.

The late Tunku Besar Kurshiah is survived by two daughters namely the Sultanah of Kedah Tuanku Bahiyah and Tunku Shahariah.

The Sultan and Sultanah of Kedah, the Raja Muda of Selangor, the Sultan of Terengganu, Tengku Sri Jaya Raja Mohd Rizam Tengku Abdul Aziz who represented the Sultan of Kelantan, the Raja Permaisuri of Perak and the Raja Perempuan of Perlis were among royalty who also paid last respects at Istana Negara.

In the afternoon an air force helicopter brought the remains of Tunku Puan Besar Kurshiah to Istana Besar Negeri Sembilan in Seri Menanti where members of the public could also pay last respects from 1.30pm to 4.30 pm today before her burial at the Royal Mausoleum in Seri Menanti later.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's Department directed all government departments in the Kuala Lumpur and Labuan federal territories to fly the national and the Federal Territory flags at half-mast today as a mark of respect.

-- BERNAMA

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