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Tunku's widow, Sharifah Rodziah, dies at age 80

PENANG, Sun. - Tun Sharifah Rodziah Syed Alwi, wife of Malaysia's first Prime Minister, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman, passed away at the Penang Hospital this morning. She was 80.

Sharifah Rodziah, who had been warded at the hospital for the past three days for pneumonia, succumbed to her illness at 8am.

She leaves seven children.

They are Tunku Khatijah, Tunku Ahmad Nerang, Tunku Meriam, Tunku Suleiman, Tunku Faridah, Tunku Noor Hayati and Tunku Mastura.

Family members brought the body back to her official residence in Jalan Park here at 10.45am.

Among those present to pay their last respects were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Other VIPs included Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and the Sultanah of Perak, Tuanku Bainun.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon was among State dignitaries who were present.

They were among about 500 people, including relatives and friends of the family, who paid their last respects.

Sharifah Rodziah was buried at the royal mausoleum in Jalan Langgar, Alor Star, after the asar prayers. The cortege carrying the body arrived at the mausoleum at 6pm.

Among VIPs present were the Raja Perempuan Perlis, the Raja Puan Muda of Perlis, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Malacca Tun Syed Ahmad Syed Shahabudin.

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