

16 MAY 2001

Razali-Death

EX-SELANGOR MB AHMAD RAZALI DIES

KUALA LUMPUR, May 16 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Ahmad Razali Mohamed Ali, a former Selangor menteri besar and a brother-in-law of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, died at the National Heart Institute (IJN) here today.

He was 72.

He was admitted to the IJN at about 8 pm yesterday after complaining of chest pain and passed away at 10 am today, according to an aide.

He was the younger brother of the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

He will be buried at the Jalan Ampang Muslim cemetery here after Asar prayers today.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah and their children were among those who paid their last respects to the late Ahmad Razali at his residence in Ampang Jaya.

The prime minister and family arrived there at 12.10 pm and recited Quranic verses and prayers.

One of Ahmad Razali's sons Ahmad Razlan, 29, said his mother Puan Sri Wan Mah Rejab was beside his father when he breathed his last.

He leaves four children -- two sons and two daughters.

Umno Disciplinary Board chairman Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen described Ahmad Razali's demise as a major loss to the board of which the late was a member.

"He had served the nation and party well. As a board member he had never skipped any of its meetings. It's difficult to find a person like him in Umno," said Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen after paying his last respects.

According to him, a week ago Ahmad Razali indicated to him about taking a week's leave to Australia.

However, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said, that wish was never to be fulfilled when he received a call from Dr Mahathir saying: "We have lost him."

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamad Ali Rustam, who also paid his last respects, described the late Ahmad Razali as an amiable and accommodating person.

Mohamed Ali said his death was a shock as Ahmad Razali appeared healthy when attending the last disciplinary board meeting.

Born on Dec 10 1928, Ahmad Razali began active involvement in Umno since 1946 when the party was led by the late Datuk Onn Jaafar and was already the party's youth wing secretary for the Pudu branch by the time he was 21.

For 14 years from 1950, he served as penghulu in several mukims in Kuala Lumpur namely Hulu Klang, Ampang and Setapak but gave up the post upon his appointment as the political secretary to the Selangor menteri besar then Datuk Harun Idris in 1964.

He first became an assemblyman for Kampung Baru in a by-election in 1967 and retained the seat in the general election held two years later.

He then contested and won the Dengkil state seat in the 1974 general election and was appointed Selangor deputy menteri besar. He was acting menteri besar in 1979.

In the 1982 general election, he won the Ampang state by a huge majority after polling 29,348 votes against 4,356 votes polled PAS challenger Karim Jamal.

Such accomplishment saw the elevation of Ahmad Razali, the youngest of 10 siblings, to menteri besar in May 1982.

However he relinquished stewardship of the state four years later saying he needed rest and was making way for new talents but chose to remain active in politics as head of Ampang Jaya Umno division in 1988.

He suffered a heart attack and breathing difficulties while attending the 1990 general assembly here and was treated at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

Last March he was named a member of the Umno Disciplinary Board.

On the corporate front, he had been chairman of entities such as Central Holdings berhad, Kumpulan Peransang Berhad, Golden Plus Holdings Bhd, Negara Properties Sdn Bhd, Setron (M) Bhd and Lembaga Tabung Haji (the pilgrims' fund board).

His passing was also a loss to national sports as he was prominent as Malaysian Sepaktakraw Association president in 1981 and president of the Asian body the following year.

He was Selangor Football Association president from 1982 to 1989.

-- BERNAMA

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