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## Illustrious life of a career politician

Annie Freeda Cruetz

FORMER Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ahmad Razali Mohamed Ali, 72, was born in Klang to a prominent Selangor family.

A veteran Umno politician, his last post was as a member of the party's disciplinary board appointed to look into complaints of money politics.

He was Selangor Menteri Besar from 1982 to 1986.

Ahmad Razali is remembered fondly by many - young and old, politicians and others - as a gentle and unassuming man.

He was the younger brother of Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali (the wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad).

He leaves two wives, Puan Sri Zabidah Abd Kadir and Wan Mah Rajab and eight children - four sons and four daughters.

Ahmad Razali joined Umno as an ordinary member in 1946, the year the party was born.

Two years later, he was appointed secretary of Pudu Umno branch in Selangor.

He was Penghulu of Kuala Lumpur in 1950; Ulu Klang and Ampang, Selangor (1952-1962); and Setapak (1962).

He was appointed secretary to the then Selangor Menteri Besar, Datuk Harun Idris, from 1964 to 1969, before he became State Assemblyman for Kampung Baru, Selangor, in 1969.

The same year saw his appointment as a Selangor Executive Councillor.

In 1974, Ahmad Razali became the State Assemblyman for Dengkil, Selangor, a post he held until 1986.

In June 1988, he was appointed executive chairman of Golden Plus Holdings Bhd and a year later, the chairman of Artic Builders (M) Sdn Bhd.

In June 1991, he became the director of Setron (M) Bhd and a year later appointed chairman and chief executive officer of the company, a position he held for two years.

In August 1995 until July last year, he was chairman of Lembaga Urusan dan Tabung Haji.

In 1997, he was appointed director of BIMB Holdings Bhd.

From January 1999 until December last year, he was a member of the Selangor Royal House Council and from June 1999 until May this year, he was the chairman of Bintai Kinden Corporation Bhd.

It was in September 1985 that he was honoured with the Seri Paduka Mahkota Selangor which carried the title "Datuk" and subsequently in October 1987, he received the Seri Indera Mahkota Pahang which also carried the title "Datuk".

In June 1999, he received the Panglima Setia Mahkota which carried the title "Tan Sri".

Ahmad Razali was a member of the Koperasi Serbaguna Anak-anak Selangor Bhd, and from 1981 until 1986, the president of the Sepak Takraw Association of Malaysia.

From 1993 until 1990, he was the president of the Football Association of Malaysia.

He was also a keen golfer and a member in several clubs and honorary president of the Darul Ehsan Club.