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PM moved to tears over passing of a good friend

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was moved to tears today as he expressed grief over the passing of a "good friend" - the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah.

Pausing momentarily on several occasions to compose himself during the Press conference at Angkasapuri, the Prime Minister said the King was a dedicated person who often insisted on carrying out his duties even though he was unwell.

The Press conference was held after the Prime Minister addressed the nation over radio and television to announce the death of the King.

Dr Mahathir said the King was very active in carrying out his duties as Head of State. "He visited various places, departments and ministries almost every day.

"I knew he was not very well because he had had a heart operation and other complications. But he insisted that he should perform his duties as the King.

"He visited everybody and carried out his duties in a very dedicated way. He was a very good King."

Dr Mahathir was informed of the King's death as he was chairing this morning's Cabinet meeting. He immediately left for the Gleneagles Intan Medical Centre where the King had died, three days after he was admitted there.

"I will miss him a lot," Dr Mahathir said.

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