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Ismail expresses gratitude for help and condolences

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Former Armed Forces chief Tan Sri (rtd) Ismail Omar today expressed his gratitude to all parties for their assistance and condolences.

Ismail, who is also Affin Bank chairman, in a two-page statement issued through the Defence Ministry, also expressed his thanks to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah who visited him and his family.

"I would like to thank them for visiting me and my family members in hospital."

He added that he was heartened by the moral support given by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"I also can't express enough gratitude to all uniformed officers from the police, army, Rela, security guards and members of the public who went out of their way to save us despite risking their lives to do so."

He also acknowledged the important role played by the Indonesian Embassy in making arrangements to send the bodies of Sulastri and Sundari (the family's two maids) to their hometowns in Indonesia for burial.

Ismail also thanked staff of Hospital Kuala Lumpur and Ampang Puteri Specialist Centre for their professional and personal support following the tragedy.

"The moral support expressed by all parties has given us the courage to endure such trying times."