

23/07/2002

PM pays respects to close friend

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today paid his last respects to a close friend, former Social Welfare Department (now Welfare Department) director-general Datuk Adnan Abdullah, who died in his sleep at his Bukit Damansara home last night.

Dr Mahathir and Adnan were classmates at the King Edward College of Medicine in Singapore.

However, Adnan did not complete his medical studies and instead pursued economic studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science where he graduated in 1952.

Immediately after that, he went to Nottingham University and graduated in 1955.

Adnan entered the civil service in 1956 and served with the Social Welfare Department. He rose through the ranks and retired as the department's director-general in 1981.

Dr Mahathir and wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali arrived at Adnan's house at 12.15pm.

They spent about 10 minutes there and offered their condolences to Adnan's wife, Datin Siti Rohani Ismail, and her family.

New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd group editor-in-chief Tan Sri Abdullah Ahmad was among the 200-odd people who paid their last respects at Adnan's house.

Adnan, 76, died in his sleep at 10.30pm. He is survived by his wife and four sons - Azlan, 43, Amer Ezani, 41, Akbar Kamal, 38, and Azizul Azmi, 33.

Azizul is a corporate and legal services officer with Commerce International Merchant Bank in the city, Amer Ezani a quantity surveyor in Johor Baru, while Akbar and Azlan are businessmen based in England and Kota Kinabalu respectively.

Siti Rohani, a former teacher, said that Adnan had suffered kidney failure.

Adnan was buried at the Kinrara Muslim cemetery in Petaling Jaya after the zohor prayers.