

Pak Lah and Dr M pay last respects to Kuok

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad were among those who paid their last respects to multi-millionaire Tan Sri Philip Kuok Hock Khee at his home here yesterday.

Other dignitaries, relatives and friends also came to express their condolences to Kuok's family.

Among them were Tun Ghafar Baba, Tan Sri Khir Johari, T. Ananda Krishnan, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia James Wise.

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and vice-president Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn paid their respects on Tuesday.

Ong, who is Housing and Local Government Minister, said Kuok had contributed tremendously to the nation and people.

In expressing his deepest condolences to the family, he said Kuok was a well-respected figure and his demise was a great loss to the nation, too.

"The Kuok family, which always keeps a low profile, has done a lot for society," he said, singling out education and charity in particular.

Kuok died at his home at the age

of 82 on Tuesday.

The eldest of the renowned Kuok brothers, he was also known for his diplomatic skills and was Malaysian Ambassador to the Netherlands with concurrent accreditation to Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark between 1966 and 1970 and Ambassador to West Germany and Yugoslavia until 1974.

Kuok and his brother Robert built an internationally renowned and well-diversified business empire.

The cortege will leave his Ling-kungan U Thant home at 11am for the Cheras Crematorium in Jalan Kuari today.