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Mohar-Obit

MALAYSIA LOSES AN ILLUSTRIOUS SON IN THE DEATH OF RAJA MOHAR

By: Kurniawati Kamaruddin

KUALA LUMPUR, June 8 (Bernama) -- The long line of top dignitaries from the King to the Prime Minister who called at the home of the late Raja Tun Mohar Badiozaman in Jalan Damai, Ampang, speaks volumes of the man who served the nation until his last breath.

Raja Mohar died at the Pantai Medical Centre at 3.19am today. He was 81.

He faithfully served the country in numerous capacities under three Prime Ministers.

Their Majesties the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid were among the first to arrive to pay their respects to Raja Tun Mohar whose last appointment was that of Chairman of Perodua (Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua).

The late Raja Mohar was born in Kuala Kangsar in 1922. He studied at Sekolah Menengah Clifford and pursued his further studies at the Raffles College in Singapore.

He obtained his BA (Hons) in Economics from Cambridge University in 1952 and a year later obtained his Diploma in Agricultural Economics from Oxford University.

He joined the Malay Administrative Service in 1938 and later the Malayan Civil Service in 1952 and served in various capacities until 1971 when he was appointed secretary-general of the Finance Ministry. He was Special Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister from 1972 to 1988.

He also served in the private sector and was, among others, chairman of Malaysian Airlines (MAS), Petronas and Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd. Until his death, he was chairman of Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn Bhd (Perodua).

Raja Mohar, who received the 'Tokoh Maal Hijrah' award in 1993, was also pro-chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

The Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan Tuanku Jaafar, the Regent of Perlis and the Raja Muda of Perak also paid their last respects.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were also there.

Dr Mahathir said Raja Mohar had served the country till his last breath.

"Tun was not only my economic adviser...had also advised Tun Hussein (Onn) and Tun (Abdul) Razak," the Prime Minister told reporters.

Abdullah said the late Raja Mohar had served the public and private sectors with excellence.

"We have lost an illustrious son who served the nation well and played a very important role in the country," he said.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Raja Mohar was highly dedicated and fully discharged his responsibilities.

He was a man of the highest integrity and respected by all including government officers and his leadership and role should be emulated by the present generation, Najib said.

Perodua Managing Director Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Omar said he would always treasure the experience of working with Raja Mohar.

"As Chairman, he laid down the guidelines for the management group and was a professional."

"It was very easy to work with him...he was a humble man," he said.

Petronas Chairman Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin said the late Raja Mohar

had made immense contributions to the nation.

He served his country well, Azizan added.

Businessman Datuk Siew Nin Chee, who could not hold back his tears, said he had known Raja Mohar for more than 50 years.

"He was like an elder brother to me.....I called him Ungku...Raja Mohar was one of Malaysia's greatest sons," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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