

27 AUG 2003

Sultanah-Respects

KING, DR M PAY LAST RESPECTS TO SULTANAH OF KEDAH

ALOR STAR, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail, and Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad were among thousands of mourners who paid their last respects to the Sultanah of Kedah, Tuanku Bahiyah Tuanku Abdul Rahman at Istana Anak Bukit here today.

They were joined by the Malay Rulers and the Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah.

The King and Queen arrived at Istana Anak Bukit at 12.30pm followed by Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Istana Negara Religious Adviser Datuk Hassan Din recited the prayers.

Tuanku Bahiyah, 73, died at Istana Kuala Cegar in Anak Bukit at 12.23pm yesterday.

Her body was taken to Istana Anak Bukit for the lying-in-state at the Balai Penghadapan at 9.45am.

Tuanku Bahiyah will be laid to rest at the Langgar Royal Mausoleum after Zohor prayers.

Among the Malay Rulers present were the Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan of Selangor, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, the Yang Dipertua Negeri of Melaka, the Tengku Mahkota of Pahang and the Tengku Mahkota of Johor.

Menteri Besar, Chief Ministers, cabinet ministers and top government officials also paid their last respects.

The royal cortege left Istana Anak Bukit accompanied by the beatings of the nobat and a 73-gun salute, signifying her age.

The Sultanah's remains were placed on a carriage and drawn slowly through a guard-of-honour and passed through the Darul Aman Highway, Jalan Sultanah and Jalan Langgar, a distance covering 13km, heading towards the Langgar Royal Mausoleum.

The public, who did not have the opportunity to pay their last respects to the Sultanah at Istana Anak Bukit, lined up on both sides of the road to pay their last respects.

Earlier, thousands of people from throughout the state formed a long queue at Istana Anak Bukit grounds since 8am to pay their respects despite having to walk for about one kilometre to enter the Balai Penghadapan.

Her body was taken to Istana Anak Bukit for the lying-in-state at the Balai Penghadapan at 9.45am.

Members of the public and government officials were allowed to pay their last respects from 10.30am.

VIPs and members of the royal household started to pay their respects from 12 noon.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, his wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob paid their last respects at Istana Kuala Cegar last night.

Tuanku Bahiyah died yesterday afternoon after celebrating her 73rd birthday on Sunday. She leaves behind two princesses Tunku Soraya, 43, and Tunku Intan Safinaz, 37, and five grandchildren.

Another princess, Tunku Sarina, a twin of Tunku Soraya, died on Aug 31, 1991.

Tuanku Bahiyah is the eldest daughter of the first Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Rahman Tuanku Muhammad, who was also the Yang di-Pertuan

Besar of Negeri Sembilan.

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