

Thousands show up to bid farewell to Chong Eu
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GEORGE TOWN: Thousands of people lined up along the route of the cortege procession for Dr Lim Chong Eu to bid their last farewell to one of Penang's great leaders.

The public, both young and old alike, turned up to catch a glimpse of the hearse carrying the coffin of Dr Lim on its way to the Batu Gantong crematorium after leaving Dewan Sri Pinang here at 11.35am on Sunday.

There was a sombre atmosphere as mourners, donned in black and white, followed the hearse along the roads to bid Dr Lim a final farewell.

Leading the hearse were Chingay troupes, ministers, state exco members, assemblymen and community leaders, followed by the Penang Free School band, St John Ambulance, Penang Girl Guides Association, Penang Chinese Girls' (Private) High School band, students, scouts, Junior Chamber International, and the management and staff of several companies.

Also in the procession were vehicles ferrying wreaths and monks chanting prayers.

Family members and close relatives, who were overwhelmed with grief, were seen sobbing as they followed the hearse.

It was a heart wrenching sight, especially when the hearse passed by the iconic 65-storey Kompleks Tun Abdul Razak (Komtar) which was built during Dr Lim's tenure as chief minister.

The cortege arrived at the crematorium at 12.50pm.

Dr Lim's body was cremated at 1.20pm and his ashes brought back home. It will be buried later beside his late father's grave in Batu Gantong.

Earlier at Dewan Sri Pinang, the family observed full Chinese traditional funeral rites and customs.

Several associations, guilds and organisations, dignitaries and VIPs paid their last respects in accordance to traditional Buddhist ceremony.

Among them were 14 associations of the Lim Clan, five Hokkien associations in Penang, Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, Malaysia Buddhist Association and the funeral committee. —
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