



Is that me? Tunku Habsah finding it hard to remember that she had once looked like that in an undated photograph with Tunku Abdul Rahman.

Blast from the past for Tunku's youngest sister

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SUNGAI PETANI: Tunku Abdul Rahman's only surviving sibling Tunku Habsah Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, is happy she is still around to bask in the country's 50th Merdeka celebration.

A 95-year-old frail but otherwise healthy heir of Kedah's 25th ruler could not really recollect much of the details leading to the country's independence but she perked when showed a picture of her with her late brother.

"That's my brother all right, but is that me?" she said.

She could hardly recognise herself in the picture when met at her country home in Bukit Pinang, Kedah recently.

As the youngest princess born to Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah and Che Manjalara, Tunku Habsah was sad that her older siblings,

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the Tunku, Tunku Aminah, Tunku Kalsom, Tunku Mohd Jewa, Tunku Baharom and Tunku Dakiah were no longer around.

Tunku Habsah who loves gardening and until a few years ago toiled in her garden on a tractor, was feared by many for her outspoken ways.

She may be frail now but in her heyday she earned the credit of being the backbone for the success of her husband Tun Syed Sheh Shahabudin who was the former Penang Governor (1967-1969) and her son, Datuk Seri Syed Nahar Shahabudin, who became Kedah Menteri Besar from 1978 to 1986.

Her husband also earned the honour of being Malaysia's first ambassador to Thailand on July 1, 1958. He was also the former ambassador to Japan, Britain and Ireland.

Tun Syed Sheh was a strong supporter of Tunku Abdul Rahman and Datuk Onn Jaafar in their political struggles.