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Leaders pay tribute to Dr Lim

LAST RESPECTS: Former colleagues share memories at former minister's house

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“A TRUE nationalist who in his lifetime made immense contributions through great ideas and strong commitment.”

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, in paying tribute to the late Tun Dr Lim Keng Yaik, hailed his former cabinet colleague as a leader and minister who always spoke from his heart, for the sake of the country and people's wellbeing.

Muhyiddin, who was at Dr Lim's family home at the Tropicana Golf and Country Resort to pay his last respects, said the former Parti Gerakan Malaysia president, who also played a critical role as the driver of the country's commodities industry for some 20 years through the ministry he helmed, was “a man who knew his stuff well”.

“Tun Dr Lim was a very knowledgeable man. He knew what he was doing and talking about. Although sometimes it would lead to a debate, he would stay true to his ideas which he strongly believed were good for the country.”

“That was why whatever portfolio he held, be it in the cabinet or Gerakan, he served his duties very well. He was also very outspoken and spoke in all honesty. While some people might get offended, Tun Dr Lim did so sincerely, with no



Former prime minister **Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad** with his wife, **Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali**, signing the condolences book. With them are (from right) Gerakan Youth chief and Tun Dr Lim Keng Yaik's son **Datuk Lim Si Pin**, widow **Toh Puan Wong Yoon Chuan** and Gerakan president **Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon**. Pic by Chan Wai Yew

malice as he stood for what he believed was best for the country and people,” said Muhyiddin who spent 45 minutes at the house.

Muhyiddin was heard asking Toh Puan Wong Yoon Chuan how her husband was before he passed away.

Meanwhile, Gerakan leaders expressed their sadness over the death of their former party leader.

Party president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu

Koon said party members were still in shock over his demise and felt a great sense of loss.

“His death is a great loss to the country and the party.”

“During his tenure, he expanded the party's political influence and successfully transformed Gerakan into a national party,” Koh said of one of the country's longest-serving cabinet ministers.

Dr Lim also held the distinction of being Gerakan's longest-serving president.

Koh called on Gerakan members and Malaysians to emulate Dr Lim's selfless devotion in serving the nation.

“Starting off with administrating the Kampung Baru settlement, he also played a significant role in generating the country's economy.”

Koh in paying tribute to Dr Lim said as primary industries minister, he made all efforts to promote Malaysia's primary industry products, especially palm oil, to the international market.

He added that Dr Lim had also made many other momentous contributions to the nation, including the formation of the Wawasan Open University.

Gerakan veteran Tan Sri Dr Chin Fook Weng said Dr Lim had contributed immensely to the party by steering the once small party to become a national party when he became its president in 1980.

“He had a great personality and was a great leader who spoke fearlessly.”

“He took great pains in addressing many issues concerning the nation. The party and the nation has lost one of her foremost leaders.”

Penang state chairman Datuk Dr Teng Hock Nan, who was on his way from Penang to Dr Lim's family home, said he was deeply saddened, saying that the latter's passing came unexpectedly.

“His death is a great loss to Gerakan and the people. He will always be remembered as a leader who would speak up on issues without fear, even if it meant stepping on toes. That was what made him special and we are very proud of him,” he said of Dr Lim who died on Saturday at 5.13pm. He was 73 years old. **Additional reporting by Sukhbir Cheema**