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Last respects: Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah signing the guest book as they arrive for the wake in Tropicana Golf and Country Resort in Petaling Jaya.

Dr M holds back tears as he bids farewell to Lim

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PETALING JAYA: An emotional Tun Dr Mahathir Mohammad had to hold back his tears when he paid his last respects to the late Tun Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

The former prime minister, who attended the wake with his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali at Dr Lim's home in Tropicana Golf and Country Resort, said he would always miss him.

"I knew him before he served in my Cabinet. He served very well," he added.

Dr Lim was a Cabinet minister for 22 years, with his last post being that of Energy, Water and Telecommunications Minister from 2004 to 2008.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was deeply saddened by Dr Lim's death.

"In an illustrious career that spanned five decades, Tun Dr Lim proved to be an inspirational politician driven by a deep commitment to public service. All Malaysians owe him a debt of gratitude. He was not just a great leader, but a great Malaysian," he said in a statement yesterday.



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Several Cabinet ministers and the public also paid their last respects at the house.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin recounted Dr Lim as a powerhouse in the Cabinet.

"He always spoke frankly and never held back his opinions. Some might feel offended with what he had said, but he said it because he felt it was right," he added.

MCA Youth chief Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong said Dr Lim's special brand of humour made him a popular man with both the Barisan Nasional and Opposition leaders.

"He would rebut his critics with jokes that helped to reduce the tension," he added.

The other ministers who came were Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

Neighbours said Dr Lim lived a quiet life after he left politics.