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Dr M: Kanang's sacrifices hard to emulate

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PETALING JAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed sadness over the passing of national hero Datuk Temenggong Kanang, a former member of the famed and fearsome Sarawak Rangers.

"We hope Kanang will remain in the memory of all as an exemplary Malaysian who had shown his love for this country, which is difficult to be equalled by others," the former prime minister said in a statement yesterday.

Kanang died of a heart attack at 1.45am on Thursday at the Sarawak General Hospital.

He was rushed there from his home at about midnight when he complained of breathing difficulties. He was 68.

Initial reports said he collapsed while watching television at home in Sungai Apong here.

Kanang was a Sarawakian who became the nation's pride for his bravery in fighting communist terrorists in 1962 and 1963 while in the service of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

He was given a state burial and accorded all honours commensurate with his sacrifices for the country by the state government.