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Emotional receptions for slain policemen

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The Jalur Gemilang-draped caskets bearing the remains of Ibrahim and Azrul arrive at the RMAF base in Subang.

BELOW: Najib, Muhyiddin and Mahathir pay their last respects to the fallen heroes at the airbase yesterday.

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SUBANG JAYA: The bodies of the slain policemen who died in an ambush by Sulu invaders in Semporna on Saturday arrived at their homes where hundreds gathered to honour them yesterday.

The remains of Supt Ibrahim Lebar, 52, and L/Cpl Mohd Azrul Tukiran, 27, were received by their families, with over 500 people, including Royal Malaysian Police, Royal Malaysian Army, Royal Malaysian Navy and Air Force personnel in attendance.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak and Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin were also present at the heroes' reception at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang yesterday.

Also present were former prime

minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed, his wife Tun Siti Hasmah and Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, who was at the reception, later confirmed that all six slain officers had been given posthumous promotions to assist their surviving family members financially.

The bodies of Ibrahim and Azrul, flown in from Tawau, arrived at about 6.30pm. Upon arrival, the bodies were taken to a packed holding room where they were accorded the nation's highest honour, with the Jalur Gemilang draped on their coffins.

Family members were seen sobbing as prayers were recited for the fallen heroes.

Ibrahim's remains were taken to his house in Subang Jaya and buried at the USJ 22 Muslim Cemetery, Subang Jaya at 9.45pm while Mohd Azrul's remains were taken to his

family home in Jalan Telok Kapas, Kampung Rantau Panjang, Klang for burial last night.

Meanwhile, in KUCHING, the Sarawak government announced that ASP Michael Padel, a Bidayuh, who was among the six slain in Semporna, will be buried at the heroes' grave in the city on Wednesday.

Some 500 police personnel, together with Yang di-Pertua Negri Tun Abang Muhammad Salahuddin Abang Barieng and Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, gathered at the police air operations force base in Kuching to receive Michael's remains when the RMAF aircraft landed about 5.35pm.

The police band played *Amazing Grace* to accompany the hearse to the police air operations force complex where Michael's remains lay in state.

The body was later brought to Kampung Bidayuh Tebakang, Serian. Speaking to reporters, Michael's



mother Elizabeth Inat Rau, 62, said her son had called her a few days before he was killed.

"He called to inquire about me and

the rest," she said. "It was nice to hear from him ... I know he was always busy, but he took time to call," she said in between sobs.