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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday described Lee Kuan Yew as a great man

whose leadership and vision helped to shape Singapore into what it is today.

He also said Kuan Yew played an important role in helping Asean achieve an era of peace and prosperity.

Najib said he was grateful to the former Singapore prime minister for his efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between Malaysia and Singapore.

"On behalf of the Malaysian government, I would like to express my condolences for the passing of Mr Lee," he said after paying his last respects at Singapore's Parliament House yesterday.

Najib, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, arrived at noon and spent 20 minutes at the building where Kuan Yew's remains are lying in state.

The prime minister was accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk

Seri Anifah Aman, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri G. Palanivel and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Mah Siew Keong.

Present to receive Najib were Kuan

Yew's son Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his wife Ho Ching.

Upon arrival, Najib signed the condolence book before proceeding to pay his last respects.

Kuan Yew, 91, died on March 23 after being warded at Singapore General Hospital's intensive care unit since Feb 5 for severe pneumonia.

The state funeral will be held on Sunday.

The public continued to throng Parliament House to pay their last respects.

*Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, paying their last respects to Lee Kuan Yew at Singapore's Parliament House yesterday. At right is Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Bernama pic*

