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# Najib pays tribute to Thai king

**MUCH-LOVED RULER:** His passing is felt throughout Southeast Asia, says prime minister

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**BANGKOK**

**T**HE death of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej is felt not only in Thailand, but also throughout Southeast Asia, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Najib, who paid tribute to the late king at the Grand Palace here yesterday, said His Majesty had wanted Malaysia and Thailand to have a close relationship.

"The loss of King Bhumibol is not only felt by the Thai people. He was a king who wanted closer ties between Malaysia and Thailand. He also wanted Southeast Asia to be more prosperous and peaceful," he told Malaysian media.

He said King Bhumibol, who ruled for seven decades, was loved by Thais and he was very close to their hearts.

Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, earlier placed a wreath and signed a condolence book at the Grand Palace.

He said he paid his last respects to King Bhumibol on behalf of the people and government of Malaysia.

"Today, I see the love of thousands of Thais, who have been queuing in the hot weather, with some kneeling for hours on the road, to show their love for King Bhumibol."

King Bhumibol died on Oct 13 at Siriraj Hospital here. He was 88.

Bernama



**Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, paying their last respects to Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Grand Palace in Bangkok yesterday. (Inset) Najib signing a condolence book as Rosmah looks on. EPA pix**

