



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting the family of late Dewan Negara president Senator Datuk Mutang Tagal to convey his condolences during a memorial service at Nirvana Centre in Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. PIC BY ATIQA SULAIMAN

## TRIBUTE TO LATE SENATE PRESIDENT

# 'MUTANG PRINCIPLED, UPHELD GOOD VALUES'

**Malaysia lost a leader who was serious about parliamentary reform, says PM**

### KUALA LUMPUR

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia lost a dedicated leader committed to parliamentary reforms with the death of Dewan Negara president Senator Datuk Mutang Tagal.

He said Mutang was determined in this effort and began serious discussions on the matter soon after his appointment in February.

"He had not been active in politics for a long time. However, immediately upon his appointment as Dewan Negara president, he started engaging in serious discussions on parliamentary reform with Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Johari (Abdul).

"He (Mutang) was a principled individual who upheld good values. We lost a Senate president who had the capability to elevate the dignity of the Dewan Negara and advocate for the reform of our parliamentary system," Anwar told reporters when met at the Nirvana Centre Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.

The prime minister arrived at the memorial centre at noon to pay his last respects to Mutang, who died at the National Heart Institute (IJN) here on Friday.

Mutang had fallen ill during a working visit to Azerbaijan and was flown back to Malaysia for treatment.

Anwar spent about 20 minutes with Mutang's family members, including his widow Datin Ho May Leng and their three children to convey his condolences.

Anwar recalled that Mutang began his parliamentary career in 1982.

"We were both young back then. We were among the younger members of parliament at that time, and we often felt sidelined by the senior members."

Hailing from Ba'kelalan, Sarawak, Mutang was a lawyer and businessman before joining politics.

Mutang, a Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu member, made his electoral debut in the 1982 general election. He won the Bukit Mas (now Lawas) federal seat for Barisan Nasional and held the constituency until 1990.

He had a Master's of Business Administration from Curtin University, and held several non-governmental positions, including president of the Orang Ulu Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He was sworn in as the 20th Senate president in February following the resignation of Tun Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, who was subsequently appointed as the Yang Dipertua Negeri of Sarawak.

According to a statement from the Senate President's Office, another memorial service will be held at the Borneo Evangelical Mission Church in Miri at 10am today.

Mutang will be laid to rest at the Sidang Injil Borneo Lambir Cemetery tomorrow.