



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim performing funeral prayers, led by Imam Besar of Masjid Negara, Ehsan Mohd Hosni, for the late Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at Masjid Negara yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

STATE FUNERAL

PAK LAH LAID TO REST AT HEROES' MAUSOLEUM

Thousands throng Masjid Negara to pay last respects to former PM

KUALA LUMPUR

THOUSANDS — from everyday Malaysians to dignitaries from here and abroad, and even royalty — paid their last respects to Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday.

They thronged Masjid Negara as Abdullah's body, in a casket, lay in state in the national mosque, a combre air enveloping it.

Flags within a 2km radius of the mosque were ordered to fly at half mast by the Prime Minister's Department.

The giant Jalur Gemilang in Dataran Merdeka was also at half mast to show the country's respect for Abdullah.

The nation's fifth prime minister, fondly known as Pak Lah, was accorded a state funeral and was laid to rest at 2.30pm at the Heroes' Mausoleum.

This was after Imam Besar of Masjid Negara, Ehsan Mohd Hosni, led the Zohor prayers, followed by the funeral prayers for the late statesman.

The casket carrying the former prime minister, passing through cascades of light and surrounded by citizens paying their respects, was solemnly borne by policemen and armed forces personnel in their ceremonial dress whites.

From the prayer hall, they carried it with dignity and reverence towards the Heroes' Mausoleum, honouring his final journey.

The open-air starburst vault of the mausoleum, surrounded by lush greenery, glowed with sunlight as family, friends and compatriots paid their last respects.

There were also words of comfort for Abdullah's widow, Tun Jeanne Abdullah, son Tan Sri Kamaluddin and daughter Nori, as well as son-in-law Khairy Jamaluddin.

Chief among those present were former Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan of Terengganu Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, Prime Minister-Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his deputies, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

Also present were former prime ministers Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was Abdullah's immediate predecessor, Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Former Singaporean prime minister Lee Hsien Loong was al-

so at the mosque to pay his last respects.

While many of the nation's heroes have been laid to rest at the Heroes' Mausoleum, only four have been interred in the main vault itself: former prime ministers Tun Abdul Razak Hussein and Tun Hussein Onn, as well as former deputy prime ministers Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman and Tun Abdul Ghafar Baba.

Abdullah, 85, died at the National Heart Institute on Monday at 7.10pm due to illness.

Born on Nov 26, 1939 in Bayan Lepas, Penang, Abdullah, who was the Kepala Batas member of parliament from 1978 to 2008, became prime minister from Oct 31, 2003 to April 3, 2009, following Dr Mahathir's resignation.

In service to the nation, Abdullah championed civil service reforms, strengthened anti-corruption initiatives and promoted moderate Islamic values.

Since his passing, tributes have been flooding in over his many achievements, such as the introduction of a five-day work week and opening up opportunities with the establishment of the five economic corridors.

Page 1 pic: Armed forces and police pall-bearers carrying the coffin of Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for funeral prayers at Masjid Negara yesterday.