

ROYALS PAY TRIBUTE TO ABDULLAH

They also express sadness and offer condolences

KUALA LUMPUR

TUN Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's many contributions to the nation were honoured with royal praise yesterday, as many of the nation's rulers offered their condolences to the late former prime minister's family.

His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, and Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah, Queen of Malaysia, expressed their condolences to Abdullah's family over his death on Monday.

"Our condolences to the wife of the statesman, Tun Jeanne Abdullah, and the entire family.

"We are truly grateful for all his deeds and contributions to the country. May his soul be blessed and placed among the righteous," they said in a post on Sultan Ibrahim's official Facebook page.

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

Bernama reported that Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin also expressed their sadness and grief

over the fifth prime minister's death.

Their royal highnesses also expressed their condolences to Abdullah's family, especially Jeanne.

Sultan Sharafuddin, who had known Abdullah since the late 1960s, described him as a dedicated and calm statesman who would be remembered as a leader who was very concerned about the well-being of the people.

"For the services and contributions of the deceased, the late Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah conferred the late Tun Abdullah with the Order of Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah in 1992 and the Seri Paduka Mahkota Selangor in 2000," according to a post on the Selangor Royal Office's Facebook page.

They prayed that Abdullah's soul be blessed by Allah SWT and placed among the righteous.

The message also included two photographs of Abdullah, who was then deputy prime minister, having an audience with Sultan Sharafuddin, then Regent of Selangor, at Istana Mestika, as well as a photograph taken at Istana Alam Shah in 2003 during the enthronement and coronation ceremony of the sultan of Selangor.

In Ipoh, Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ex-



Armed forces pall-bearers carrying the coffin of Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the state funeral at Masjid Negara yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

pressed profound sorrow over Abdullah's passing.

"Together with Raja Permaisuri (Tuanku Zara Salim), this House (the Perak Legislative Assembly) and the people of the state of Perak, we extend our deepest condolences to Tun Jeanne Abdullah and the family of the late Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on

the passing of Malaysia's fifth prime minister.

"May Allah, in His infinite mercy, grant his soul eternal peace and place him among the righteous," Sultan Nazrin said at the opening of the 15th term of the legislative assembly at Bangunan Perak Darul Ridzuan.

Sultan Nazrin said as a mark of

mourning and respect from the people and the state of Perak, the state flag would be flown at half-mast for the rest of the day.

A moment of silence was also observed in the state assembly as Sultan Nazrin paid tribute to Ayer Kuning assemblyman Ishsam Shahrudin, who died on Feb 22.