

INFLUENTIAL RELIGIOUS FIGURE

PM extends condolences on Saudi grand mufti's death

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has conveyed his condolences on the passing of the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Sheikh.

"Muslims in Malaysia are saddened by the news of the passing of Sheikh Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Sheikh, the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia.

"We have lost a great scholar

whose knowledge and wisdom have greatly benefited the Islamic world and the *ummah* as a whole.

"On behalf of the people of Malaysia, I extend my sympathy and condolences to the people of Saudi Arabia and Muslims worldwide who are surely mourning this great loss.

"May Allah shower His mercy upon his soul and place him

among the prophets and the righteous. Al-Fatihah," Anwar said on Facebook.

Sheikh Abdulaziz, who was also the head of the Council of Senior Scholars, died on Tuesday at the age of 82, Saudi media reported.

He was the country's grand mufti since 1999.

He also served as head of the General Presidency of Scholarly Research and Ifta (fatwa issuing),

and the Supreme Council of the Muslim World League.

Known for his controversial positions and staunch loyalty to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Sheikh Abdulaziz was one of the most influential religious figures in the kingdom for over two decades.

As the grand mufti, he played a central role in shaping Saudi Arabia's religious discourse.