

**Hamzah's Death A Big Loss To The Nation – Najib
Bernama
September 04, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today described the death of national sports icon Tan Sri Hamzah Abu Samah as a big loss to the country, especially the sports fraternity.

Najib said Hamzah was a leader who had made tremendous contributions to the nation in the context of administration and politics, through his various portfolios that included post of senior minister in the cabinet and Umno.

"He is a revered figure in sports and headed such high profile associations like the Football Association of Malaysia, Asian Football Confederation and the Olympic Council of Malaysia," he told reporters after attending Utusan Group's Aidilfitri celebration here today.

Apart from Najib who arrived with his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyidin Yassin and other cabinet ministers were among about 3,000 who attended the Utusan function.

Najib said he would personally feel the loss of Hamzah since he was his father's brother-in-law and closely associated with the family.

"Hamzah's wife is my father's sister. We always met each other. Personally I am going to miss him," he said.

Hamzah, a National sports icon and the Olympic Council of Malaysia's Honorary Life President, passed away at 3.30pm today at his house in Staffield Country Resort, Mantin, Negeri Sembilan, due to old age.

He was 88.

The late Hamzah was among ministers who were in the country's first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al Haj's cabinet when the country gained independence.

Veteran Umno secretary Datuk Mustapha Yaakob said the late Hamzah who had great vision and determination had held important posts in Umno, especially Umno Youth chief and Secretary General.

"His demise is a big loss to the country. He was a great leader," he told Bernama here today.

Mustapha said it was his hope that the younger generation emulated the leadership qualities of Hamzah, both in politics and sports.

Umno Secretary General Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor also offered his condolence to the passing of a great leader.

"His contributions to the nation and party is priceless," he said.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=692012>