

**Mahadzir's Death A Loss To Intellectual Arena - Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) - Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak says the death of former deputy education minister Datuk Dr Mahadzir Mohd Khir is a great loss to the intellectual and political arena.

The prime minister who befriended Mahadzir for many years said that he was firm and bold in giving thoughtful views although they were different.

"He was a bold politician and not afraid to give his piece of mind as member of parliament and deputy minister of education.

"When I was Umno Youth chief, we always had brainstorming sessions. I respect him as an intellectual leader capable of giving fruitful views," he told reporters after presenting condolences to Mahadzir's family.

Najib who arrived at 8.11pm said the death of the former University of Malaya lecturer and historian was invaluable and irreplaceable.

He was seen talking with Mahadzir's widow, Datin Dr Amla Mohd Salleh and his three children before entering the house to observe the remains.

Dressed in white baju melayu and songkok, the prime minister shook hands with guests before leaving the house.

Mahadzir, 67, died at 4.30pm in University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) today after being admitted yesterday after a stroke.

His remains are expected to be taken to Masjid Section 14, Petaling Jaya for prayers before burial at Bukit Kiara Muslim Cemetery at 10am tomorrow.

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