

**Thong Was Exemplary Civil Servant - Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 29 (Bernama) -- The late Tan Sri Thong Yaw Hong, who was Public Bank Bhd (PBB) co-chairman and former government treasurer-general was an exemplary civil servant, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

"Tan Sri was an exemplary civil servant when he served his country in the early 70's as director-general of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) before moving on to assume the position of treasurer-general.

"His leadership in the civil service and contributions in charting strategies which led to the economic development of our nation, especially during the days of my late father (Tun Abdul Razak Hussein), will always be remembered by us Malaysians," he said on his Facebook account Friday.

Najib also expressed condolences to the Thong family on the demise of the 85-year-old on Thursday, following a period of illness.

Thong, who was appointed Public Bank chairman in 1986 and re-designated as co-chairman in 2002, had served as co-chairman of various companies in the Public Bank Group, which includes Public Islamic Bank Bhd and Public Investment Bank.

In the government sector, Thong was involved primarily in socio-economic development planning and finance.

He had served in the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department since 1957 and became its director-general from 1971 to 1978 and served as secretary-general, finance ministry from 1979 until his retirement in 1986.

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