

Preparing for homecoming

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JOHOR BARU: The remains of Perak heroes Tengku Menteri Ngah Ibrahim of Larut and Laksamana Mohd Amin Alang of Hilir Perak, buried in two Muslim cemeteries in Singapore, will be exhumed today.

The National Heritage Department will start the exercise with the exhumation of Laksamana Mohd Amin's remains at Pusara Aman in Choa Chu Kang at 9am.

Ngah Ibrahim's remains will be exhumed an hour later at the Al-Junied Muslim Cemetery in Jalan Kubor.

Malaysian High Commission First Secretary Mohd Suhaimi Tajuddin said the exhumation would be completed at about 3pm and the remains taken to the Port of Tanjung Pelepas in Johor by the Second Link.

"The remains will then be shipped to Lumut, Perak, via navy vessel *KD Laksamana Mohd Amin*," he said in a statement yesterday, adding that the remains in Perak would be conducted on Saturday.

High Commissioner Datuk N. Parameswaran will be present at the Al-Junied cemetery together with Commissioner of



DELICATE TASK: Staff of Singapore's Wares Investment and archaeologists from the Department of National Heritage preparing to exhume the grave of Orang Besar Jajahan Hilir Perak Tengku Menteri Ngah Ibrahim at Pusara Al-Junied in Jalan Kubor, Singapore, on Tuesday. — Bernamapic

Heritage Prof Datuk Dr Siti Zuraina Abdul Majid.

Others expected to witness the exhumation are Larut, Matang and Selama territorial

chief Datuk Dr Wan Mohd Isa Wan Ahmad, Hilir Perak territorial chief Datuk Mohd Amin Ali Bakar, who is the eldest grandson of Laksamana Mohd Amin,

and other descendants. Ngah Ibrahim and Laksamana Mohd Amin were implicated in the murder of Perak's first British Resident J.W.W. Birch in

1875 and, together with Sultan Abdullah of Perak, exiled.

Sultan Abdullah was allowed to return after 16 years, and he is buried at the Kuala Kangsar Royal Mausoleum.

Laksamana Mohd Amin's grave was found in the 1980s.

Efforts to track down Ngah Ibrahim's grave were initiated in the early 1990s by Dr Wan Mohd Isa's father Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Rasdi, the then territorial chief. Dr Wan Mohd Isa finally found the grave in August 2004.

The remains of the two heroes will be received with full military honours when the *KD Laksamana Mohd Amin* docks at the navy base in Lumut at 9am on Saturday.

It will be an emotional moment for Mohd Amin, 72.

The Hilir Perak territorial chief had taken over the task of bringing his grandfather's remains back to Perak after his father died.

"The quest, which started more than 20 years ago, is finally over. We have worked so hard to make this happen," he said when contacted yesterday before leaving for Singapore.

"If my father were alive, I believe he would be the happiest person ever."

Since he was a boy, Mohd Amin said he had listened to stories about how great his grandfather had been.

According to him, one of the reasons the British had exiled Laksamana Mohd Amin, then in his 30s, was because of the effect he had on those around him.

"Because of his influence, people did not hesitate to carry out his instructions," he said.

On Saturday, the Raja Muda of Perak Raja Nazrin Shah, Raja di-Hilir Perak Datuk Seri Raja Ja'afar Raja Muda Musa and Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Tajol Rosli Ghazali will be among those witnessing the historic return of the Malay warriors.

During the ceremony, Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim will receive the caskets, which will be draped with the Jalur Gemilang and Perak flag.

Dr Rais will then hand over the caskets to the Raja Muda of Perak.

Laksamana Mohd Amin's remains will be buried at the Kuala Kangsar Royal Mausoleum while Ngah Ibrahim will be interred at his ancient fort, now the Matang Historical Complex, in Larut Matang, Taiping.