

Exhumed remains of heroes on way back

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SINGAPORE: The exhumed remains of Perak heroes Tengku Menteri Ngah Ibrahim of Larut and Laksamana Mohd Amin Alang of Hilir Perak are on their way back home.

The remains of both men were brought to the Tanjung Pelepas Port and will be shipped to Lumut via navy vessel *KD Laksamana Muhammad Amin*.

Tomorrow morning, 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 Mohd Tajol Rosli Ghazali are

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expected to be present when the remains arrive at Lumut port.

Ngah Ibrahim's grandson Datuk Dr Wan Mohd Isa Wan Ahmad got emotional when he saw the team of experts from the National Heritage Department exhumed his grandfather's grave at the Al-Junied Cemetery in Jalan Kubor here yesterday.

"I am proud and happy. It is not just me (who is feeling this way), but also the people of Perak and Malaysia - especially if they had fought against the British (during the colonial rule). Some fought openly, while others were behind the scenes, providing moral support and financial assistance," said the 61-year-old.



HEADING HOME: The remains of Ngah Ibrahim and Laksamana Mohd Amin being taken onto the navy vessel *KD Laksamana Muhammad Amin* at Tanjung Pelepas Port yesterday.

Dr Wan Mohd Isa said he had waited a long time for this day. His father Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Rasdi had been looking for Ngah Ibrahim's remains since the early 1990s.

The exhumation works by the team led by National Heritage Department archaeology curator Khalid Syed Ali started at 8am.

On Wednesday, the team worked until 6.30pm to mark the tomb of Ngah Ibrahim so that they could re-assemble it at his old house in Matang.

The team's work was made difficult by a waterlogged grave due to a nearby underground spring. The first

breakthrough came when the team found some bones of Ngah Ibrahim.

A pump was then used to drain the water as the team continued to look for the other remains of Ngah Ibrahim.

Two hours later, all the remains were extracted and placed in a wooden box. Dr Wan Mohd Isa then draped the Jalur Gemilang over the box.

Also recovered from the grave were pieces of pottery.

Culture, Arts and Heritage Ministry heritage commissioner Datuk Prof Dr Zuraina Abdul Majid said most of the bones were either shattered or had disintegrated. "It is what you would

expect from a waterlogged pitch."

Also present was Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris literature lecturer Dr Talib Samad, who was among the first few people to locate Ngah Ibrahim's final resting ground in August 2004.

Dr Talib had written a book on Ngah Ibrahim entitled *Sejarah Tunku Menteri* which was published in 2003.

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.