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'PILLAR OF STRENGTH'

TUN RAHAH BURIED NEXT TO FATHER, SISTER

Queen, sultans, political leaders pay their last respects to widow of nation's second premier

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A SOMBRE mood enveloped the National Heroes Mausoleum compound at Masjid Negara yesterday, where Tun Rahah Mohamed Noah was laid to rest. Rahah, 87, widow of the country's second prime minister, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, and mother of sixth prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, was accorded a state funeral and was buried at the National Heroes Mausoleum at 3.45pm.

She was buried next to her father and the country's first Dewan Rakyat speaker, Tan Sri Mohamed Noah Omar, who died in 1991, and her sister, Tun Suhailah Mohamed Noah.

Suhailah was the wife of the third prime minister, Tun Hussein Onn, and mother of Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein. She died in 2014.

The state funeral was attended by Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah, who arrived at the mosque at 2pm.

Upon her arrival, Tunku Azizah was welcomed by the prime minister's wife, Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman, before being taken to a waiting room for the arrival of Rahah's remains.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin arrived at the mosque at 2.10pm.

Other dignitaries, family members and friends also paid their last respects to Rahah.

They included several cabinet ministers, including Senior Min-

ister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa, Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Dr Rais Yatim and Chief of Defence Forces Tan Sri Affendi Buang.

Rahah's remains were transported to Masjid Negara in a coffin draped with the Jalur Gemilang for the state funeral from Masjid Ar-Rahah in Kampung Kerinchi at 2pm following Zohor and jenazah prayers.

The state funeral started at 2.30pm with another jenazah prayer, led by Masjid Negara Imam Besar Ehsan Mohd Husni, after the arrival of the coffin.

During the burial, Najib, who is the eldest of Rahah's five sons, helped carry her remains into the grave.

Ehsan later recited a *talkin* (funeral sermon), which served to remind Muslims of their duties to God and their absolute journey to the Hereafter.

Rahah's family members, who were dressed in black, including Najib, were seen wiping away tears when the final prayers were recited.

After the recitation of the *tahill* and *talkin*, Tunku Azizah poured scented water on Rahah's grave, followed by Muhyiddin, Najib and his family members.

The Jalur Gemilang was then presented to Najib by the Prime Minister's Department senior deputy secretary-general, Datuk Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan.

Rahah's remains were taken from her home in Jalan Eaton in a hearse at 7.50am to Masjid Ar-Rahah in Kampung Kerinchi for Islamic burial rites.

Dignitaries who were at the mosque included Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzudin Shah, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak Tun Abdul Taib Mahmud, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other political leaders.

Rahah died at the Prince Court



The remains of Tun Rahah Mohamed Noah being carried to the National Heroes Mausoleum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIX

Medical Centre at 4.45pm on Friday. Born on June 11, 1933 in Muar, Johor, she married Razak on Sept 4, 1952. The couple had five sons — Najib, Datuk Ahmad Johari, Datuk Mohamed Nizam, Datuk Mohamed Nazim and Datuk Mohamed Nazir.

The couple had been married for 24 years when Razak died of leukaemia in 1976.

Rahah was awarded the Seri Setia Mahkota Award by the federal government in 1976, which carries the title Tun.

She also received the Tun Fatimah Gold Medal from the National Council of Women's Organisations; the Sri Kandi (Heroine) Award from the Malaysian Girl Guides Association; and, an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy (Education) from Universiti Utara Malaysia.

Najib said his mother always reminded him to protect the good name of the family.

"Allahyarhamah (Rahah) always reminded me to be dedicated in my work and carry out

my duties responsibly. "It is important to her that we continue to uphold and protect the good name of the family.

"With that in mind, I will uphold her advice and continue to defend the good name of the family."

The Pekan member of parliament thanked the government for the state funeral that was accorded to his mother and described it as an honour and recognition of the contributions she and the family of Tun Razak made to the nation.

"The recognition accorded by the government will surely become the greatest memories for the family of Tun Razak." Najib described his mother as a loving and kindhearted person, who was the entire family's pillar of strength.

"My mother raised all of her children so well that each of us succeeded in the fields that we chose.

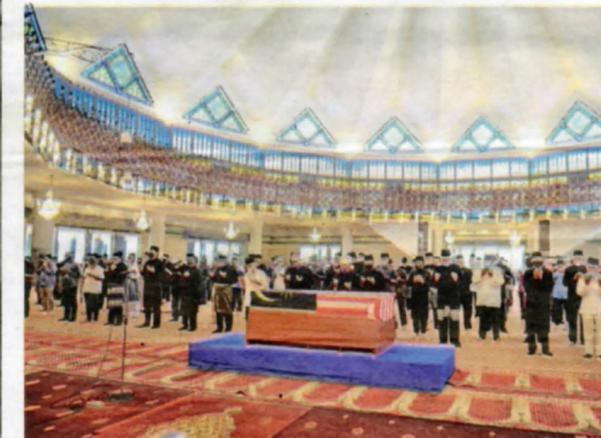
"It is hard to lose a mother," he said, adding that the family accepted Rahah's death as fate.



Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his siblings sit before the grave of their mother, Tun Rahah Mohamed Noah, at the National Heroes Mausoleum.



Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah paying her last respects to Tun Rahah Mohamed Noah at the National Heroes Mausoleum.



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak performing solat jenazah for Tun Rahah Mohamed Noah.



Tun Abdul Razak Hussein and Tun Rahah Mohamed Noah on their arrival at Dewan Hang Tuah in Melaka on March 22, 1973. Behind her is the then Melaka chief minister, Datuk Abdul Ghani Ali. FILE PIC

Dr M: Rahah contributed immensely to country

KUALA LUMPUR: During her lifetime, Tun Rahah Mohamed Noah made immense contributions to the nation's development by assisting her husband, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, the country's second prime minister.

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad described Rahah as the last of the "Merdeka generation", who made invaluable and immense contributions to the country.

"(She is from the) Merdeka (independence) generation. Not many people from the Merdeka generation (who witnessed independence) are still alive.

"Perhaps she was among the last (of the Merdeka generation).

"She helped Tun Razak when he was prime minister," the Langkawi member of parliament and former prime minister told Bernama.

Dr Mahathir was visibly sad when met at Masjid Ar-Rahah here where he paid his last respects to Rahah.

He was accompanied by his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, and son, Datuk Seri Mukhriz, who is Jerlun MP and former Kedah menteri besar.

Dr Mahathir was among several prominent figures, members of royalty and political leaders seen paying their last respects to Rahah at the mosque in Kampung Kerinchi.

The motorcade with Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah and Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin was seen entering the compound of the mosque at 9.18am.

About 40 minutes later, Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzudin Shah arrived at the mosque to pay his last respects to Rahah, who was the mother of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

A motorcade with Yang di-Pertua Sarawak Tun Abdul Taib Mahmud, who was accompanied by his wife, Toh Puan Ragad Kurdi Taib, was seen entering Masjid Ar-Rahah about noon.

Leaders who expressed their condolences included Najib's predecessor, Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Abdullah, in a joint statement on Friday with his wife, Tun Jeanne Abdullah, expressed their condolences to Najib over the death of his mother.