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Cuba decrees national mourning for death of Vietnam president

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The Council of State of Cuba decreed Friday a day of national mourning after the death of the president of Vietnam, Tran Dai Quang, state media reported.

During the period of mourning the Cuban flag will be hoisted at half mast in public buildings and military institutions, the statement said.

The decree also states that public shows and festive activities will be suspended during the mourning period.

The president of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba, Esteban Lazo, sent his condolences to the people of Vietnam on Friday during a meeting held in Havana with the main representatives of the provincial assemblies of that governing body, in which a minute of silence was dedicated to the memory of the leader of the Asian country.

The First Vice-President, Salvador Valdés recently traveled to Vietnam and during the visit he was received by Tran Dai Quang, who was already ill.

The head of the Cuban Parliament highlighted the friendship that unites his country and Vietnam, and recalled that during the visit of Tran Dai Quang to the island in November 2016, Havana was officially inaugurated as the institutional seat of the National Assembly.

He also stressed that the Vietnamese president was the last head of state who met with the historical leader of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro, before his death on Nov. 25, 2016.

Official media recalled Friday that visit of the Vietnamese president, during which the first secretary of the Communist Party, Raul Castro awarded Quang with the Order of José Martí, the highest distinction granted by the State Council of the Caribbean country.

Tran Dai Quang died on Friday morning, at 62 years of age, at the Central Military Hospital in Hanoi, after a long illness, according to official sources of the Asian country.

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