

23 FEB 1996

Bosnian-PMC

BUKVIC DIED FROM MULTIPLE ORGAN FAILURE, SAYS PMC

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- The charge d'affaires at the Bosnian embassy here, Ibrahim Bukvic, died from multiple organ failure arising from complications of his illness, the Pantai Medical Centre (PMC) said today.

PMC's public relations executive Judy Hor said in a statement that Bukvic was admitted under the care of his own private personal doctor and had several operations due to thrombosis of the blood supply to the intestines.

Three separate sections of his intestines had to be removed, she said.

Hor said the PMC extended its sympathy and condolence to his family.

Bukvic, 55, who was admitted to the PMC on Jan 31 for stomach pains, died three days ago.

Bukvic's son, Amer Bukvic, 22, had expressed dismay over the medical treatment his father received at the PMC and that the family had lodged complaints with the centre's authorities as well as Wisma Putra and the Bosnian Foreign Ministry over the matter.

Recalling events leading up to his father's death, Amer said Bukvic underwent an operation on his appendix following admission to hospital.

Seven days later, he said his father was again operated on, this time, for a blocked intestine.

Amer said two more operations were performed on his father, one to remedy a stitch that had come loose and the last when his condition took a turn for the worst before he died.

When contacted at his house in Petaling Jaya today, Amer told Bernama that his family would make a formal complaint to the authorities if necessary to begin investigation into Bukvic's death.

"If it is necessary that my family should give a written complaint (to begin an investigation), I will do whatever the Malaysian government ask me to do," he said.

Amer was asked to comment on the statement by the chairman of the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC), Tan Sri Abu Bakar Sulaiman, yesterday that the MMC was prepared to probe the cause of Bukvic's death.

Abu Bakar, who is the Director-General of Health, said Bukvic's family could send in a complaint to the MMC. He was also quoted as saying that the family could sue the private hospital if they believed there was negligence.

Amer said he informed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad "about everything" after the Prime Minister signed the condolence book at the Bosnian embassy in Petaling Jaya on Wednesday.

Amer said the Prime Minister told him that the matter would be investigated.

"I put full trust in the Prime Minister's judgment and of the Malaysian government," he added.

Meanwhile PMC doctors involved in the hospital's management in a statement said Bukvic had a medical history of gall bladder infection, high blood pressure, heart attack and he was on intermittent treatment.

The doctors who treated Bukciv before his death, said today in view of his past medical history, the risk of surgery and anaesthesia was discussed with his family at length.

The doctors said an emergency operation had to be performed on Bukvic on the same evening on Jan 29, the day he was admitted to PMC for acute

appendicitis.

According to the doctors, while Bukvic was recovering from the operation, he developed another attack of abdominal pain, a drop in blood pressure and the kidneys stopped functioning.

" The diagnosis of thrombosis of the blood supply to the small bowel was made, " the statement said.

However, Bukvic had to be stabilised before another operation could be undertaken. The second operation confirmed the thrombosis in three separate sections of the small bowel which had to be removed.

" Due to the abdominal distension, another procedure to strengthen the wound was performed. He also developed bleeding from the stomach which was successfully treated, " the statement said.

Inspite all the efforts and in view of Bukvic's previous medical condition and severity of the disease, he succumbed to the illness.

The statement also said that Bukvic had had a heart attack five years ago and he had been admitted to PMC in 1994 for a stroke where he was successfully treated with almost complete recovery. -- Bernama

ARA ES AAM