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LEAD Zin-Critical

MELAKA CM IN CRITICAL CONDITION (RPT WITH AMENDMENTS)

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 12 (Bernama) -- Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani is now in critical condition at the Tawakal Hospital here, Melaka political veteran Datuk Aziz Tapa said this evening.

"Neurologist Dr Jaswant Singh who is attending to the Chief Minister told me his condition is very critical," he said.

"Nevertheless doctors are struggling and doing their best for him," he said when asked about the condition of the Chief Minister when he emerged from the hospital after visiting him.

The 56-year-old Chief Minister suffered a brain stroke at his residence at 4.30am on Sunday..

Several Umno leaders also visited Mohd Zin at the hospital and said they were informed that the Chief Minister's condition was now critical.

Mohd Zin was appointed Melaka Chief Minister in October 1994 succeeding Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Thamby Chik who resigned the post.

Executive Councillor Datuk Abu Zahar Isnin said several specialists were doing their best to revive Mohd Zin.

The Chief Minister's wife Datin Seri Fatimah Samdin, his children and Umno and Barisan Nasional leaders are now gathering at the private hospital.

A doctor who spoke on condition of anonymity said of the Chief Minister's condition : "When somebody gets high blood pressure plus diabetes, his brain artery can be very easily broken."

"The blood pressure becomes very high and then you have blood clotting, which pushes all the brain matter and thus you get the stroke," he explained.

Explaining what brain stroke is, he said: " What happens is once the artery is broken, blood comes out and begins to clot. The clot is the one that pushes the brain matter, destroying it."

"From what I know, this is the second time he got such an attack - so it is quite a serious thing."

Asked on the possibility of Mohd Zin being operated on, he said it would be done if necessary.

This afternoon, Melaka State Secretary Datuk Wira Abdul Rahman Jamal briefing reporters on the Chief Minister's condition said he had the stroke at 4.30am on Sunday.

"He is unconscious and doctors are trying to revive him," he said.

The Melaka Government policy matters were being referred to the Federal Government, the State Secretary said.

Melaka Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin visited the Chief Minister at the hospital today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited him at 10 last night after attending Umno's 51st anniversary celebrations. -- BERNAMA

ZAB PR AAM