

11 DEC 1999

Aziz-Accident

AZIZ SAMSUDDIN INJURED, WIFE KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- Newly-appointed Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Samsuddin was injured while his wife was killed in a road accident at KM433 of the North-South Highway near Rawang today.

Kuala Kubu Baharu OCPD, Supt Azman Yusof said that Datin Asmah Ali Hussain died on the spot while Aziz and his son, Nafrizal, 27, were slightly injured.

They were proceeding here from Ipoh when the accident occurred at 11.55am.

Supt Azman said that their four-wheel drive vehicle was driven by Nafrizal. Aziz was seated at the front passenger seat while Asmah was seated behind Aziz.

The vehicle was believed to have gone out of control after it crashed onto the divider on the left and later plunged into the ditch there.

Aziz was taken to a clinic at the Rawang Country Homes near the interchange of the highway while his wife's remains were taken to Kuala Kubu Baharu Hospital.

Aziz, 62, was political secretary to the prime minister prior to his appointment as deputy minister announced yesterday. He was made a senator a month ago.

Supt Azman said that Aziz and Nafrizal were believed to have been saved by the air bags in the vehicle.

They were later taken to the Subang Jaya Medical Centre (SJMC) for treatment.

A post-mortem conducted revealed that Asmah died of internal head injuries.

Their vehicle, which is badly damaged, has been taken to the Sentosa police station near the scene of the accident.

Asmah's remains were taken to their home at No 8, Jalan Opu, Daeng Merewah 1, Section 9/3A Shah Alam, at 4pm.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar were among those who paid their last respects to Asmah.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived at 5pm, spent about 30 minutes at the house.

Aziz and his son, under treatment at the SJMC, later arrived at the house. Aziz was wheeled on a stretcher while Nafrizal had his nose bandaged.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said that Aziz and his son only sustained minor injuries.

Speaking to reporters after accompanying Dr Mahathir at the SMJC to visit Aziz and his son, Chua said that Aziz and his son had a concussion and leg sprain in the accident.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah arrived at the hospital at 4.40pm and spent about 15 minutes there.

Among those who visited Aziz were Abdullah and his wife, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, Abu Hassan and Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam.

-- BERNAMA

SLR/AZH/AKT RM