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Special Raya cheer for Mohd Ady Fakhri

Saiful Azhar Abdullah

HE MADE MY DAY ... Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday spent some time with Mohd Ady Fakhri Mohd Zahir, eight, who is suffering from a rare neck bone defect, at his house in Seberang Perak.

Mohd Ady Fakhri will undergo surgery on Jan 25 at Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang. It will be his third operation.

"I'm so thrilled and proud ... at first I thought it would be impossible to meet him," Mohd Ady Fakhri told reporters, visibly beaming with joy and relishing the moments with Dr Mahathir.

"I'm so happy because not only Dr Mahathir turned up but also his wife and the Menteri Besar," he said.

"We'll take him to the Alor Star hospital immediately after the meeting with Dr Mahathir," the boy's mother, Siti Hajjar Sheikh Ahmad, 26, said.

Siti Hajar said she was stunned with disbelief upon receiving a telephone call from the Prime Minister's Office that Dr Mahathir would call at their home while visiting Kedah yesterday.

"I'm so thankful that he obliged to fulfil my son's wishes.

"This is the sweetest and most memorable Hari Raya for our family," she added, visibly touched by the Prime Minister's gesture.

The disease, caused by viral infection, eats away at Mohd Ady Fakhri's neck bone.

For the last five months, he has been using a neck support known as Lenman MRI Halo to control neck movement.

His father Mohd Zahir Harun, 31, formerly a commando with the Royal Malaysian Air Force and now a trader, told the Prime Minister that his son's friends used to call him the "Robocop Kid".

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali had some encouraging words for Mohd Ady Fakhri.

They also asked about his condition before the Prime Minister presented him with a Hari Raya card, duit raya and a hamper.

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