

14 JUL 2000

Everest-Dies

EVEREST'97 EXPEDITION LEADER RAMLLE DIES

KUALA LUMPUR, July 14 (Bernama) -- The leader of Malaysia's 20-member expedition to conquer Mt Everest, the world's highest peak, in 1997 Nor Ramlle Sulaiman died at his house in Taman Sri Andalas, Klang, early today. He was 45.

Two members of the expedition, M.Magendran, 33, and N.Mohandas, 36, created history by becoming the first Malaysians to reach the summit of the 8,848 high mountain after a 59-day climb at 2.10pm on May 23 of that year.

His wife Roslin Abdul Jalil told Bernama that her husband died at about 2.30am.

Ramlle, an administrative officer with Klang Port Management (KPM) went to bed at 1am after doing some office work which he had brought home, she said.

"At about 2.30am I awoke and heard Ramlle cough three times and he managed to say Allah also three times then slumped on his pillow and began to foam."

Roslin said she sought the help of a neighbour who worked at the hospital and also phoned a doctor.

According to the neighbour, Ramlle had died even before the doctor arrived.

Ramlle's body was taken to the Tuanku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital in Klang where an autopsy was performed.

Ramlle leaves a wife and two children, aged 14 and 19.

The expedition was the brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who launched the project on June 4,1996.

Ramlle was conferred the Kesatria Mangku Negara (KMN) by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

He was buried at the Lipat Kajang Muslim cemetery after the Friday prayers in the afternoon.

Among the some 200 people who attended the burial are Director-General of Youth Datuk Raja Roslan Raja Samah and mariner Datuk Azhar Mansor.

--BERNAMA

meo/azh aam zul