

Ras Adiba off to Sydney on Tuesday

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Former TV3 newsreader Ras Adiba Radzi is scheduled to leave for Sydney on Tuesday to undergo her third spinal operation.

Kalamhamidi Abu Bakar, chief executive officer of Pantai Medical Centre, where Ras Adiba is being treated, told a Press conference:

“The team of (four) specialists (who are treating her at the centre) are of the opinion that further treatment for her should be carried out in consultation with the specialists in Sydney.”

Ras Adiba, 33, was admitted to the centre on July 11 after she was paralysed from the waist down.

Kalamhamidi said Ras Adiba was undergoing intensive physiotherapy under the watchful eye of the four consultants.

She damaged her spinal cord in a car accident while on a TV3 sports assignment five years ago. Two years later, she underwent a spinal cord implant stimulator procedure after doctors found out how serious the injury was.

Speaking from her hospital bed, Ras Adiba said she hoped the surgery would make her the active person that she was.

“There is so much more I want to do ... I’m going to fight and fight so that I can be my old self again. I just want to be able to walk again.

“I believe there is a reason for everything that happens in our life. It’s God’s will,” she said.

She thanked everyone who had given support and encouragement for her recovery.

“Not only I received support through the letters but also lots of SMSs (short messaging service), day and night.

“Those who visited me, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, gave their words of advice. I really appreciate them.”

Dr Mahathir’s visit yesterday, she said, was like “a dream come true” to her.

When asked on claims that she came from a rich family, Ras Adiba said:

“I wouldn’t want to humiliate my family by asking for donations, if that is so. I put down my face and guts to ask from the public because I am terribly in need of help.”

Ras Adiba’s plight was first highlighted by TV3 on July 13. Her friends at the station had appealed to the public to help raise RM300,000 for her surgery.

To date, more than RM170,000 has been collected.

Sportswriters Association of Malaysia (SAM), represented by its president Mustakim Aminuddin, handed over RM2,000 to her today.

Mustakim said Ras Adiba had been very committed to the association and that the donation was a “gesture to help bring her back into the limelight”, especially her passion for sports.

“We will also organise a charity event. It is still under discussion and the proceeds will be channelled to her,” he said.

Among those who visited her today were Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop, TV3 chief executive officer Ahmad Farid Ridzuan, chief financial officer Amrin Awaluddin, newscaster Sherliza

Shahdan and other staff members.

Ahmad Farid said the station would sponsor two return flight tickets to Sydney for Ras Adiba.