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PM's visit a dream come true, says Ras Adiba

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Former TV3 newsreader Ras Adiba Radzi, 33, described Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit on Thursday as "a dream come true".

"I just can't believe it ... he walked in and greeted me. I am truly honoured that he came despite his busy schedule," said Ras Adiba, who is paralysed from the waist down and urgently needs between RM200,000 and RM300,000 for an operation in Sydney.

Dr Mahathir arrived at Pantai Medical Centre about 5pm and spent half-an-hour with her. He was only accompanied by his bodyguard.

"He wants me to be strong and not to give up hope. He also advised me not to delay my third spinal operation," she said.

Ras Adiba said Dr Mahathir was optimistic that many caring people would help her raise the funds for the operation.

"He jokingly said they are many people out there waiting for me to recover and that they miss my poems," she added.

Ras Adiba explained her condition to the Prime Minister.

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.

Her 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.

Yesterday, Edaran Otomobil Nasional Bhd, represented by its communications manager Fauziah Abdul Aziz, donated RM5,000.