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Ahmad Nor-Died

AHMAD NOR DIES OF LUNG CANCER

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- DAP vice-chairman Ahmad Nor died of lung cancer at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital this afternoon. He was 60.

Ahmad died at 3pm, according to a statement issued by the DAP head office.

Ahmad served as President of the Congress of Unions in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) between 1983 and 1986. He was also president of the Peninsular Malaysia Customs Officers Union.

He will be buried at his hometown in Alor Star.

Among those who paid their last respects at the hospital were DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang and secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock.

Ahmad was the only Malay to hold a high post in the opposition party.

Meanwhile, Cuepacs Secretary-General Datuk Abdul Rahman Manan said Ahmad's condition became serious yesterday and this morning after he was admitted to the hospital three weeks ago.

He said Cuepacs was saddened by the death of Ahmad who had fought for the welfare of civil servants during his tenure as Cuepacs president before leaving the union to enter politics.

"Although he was in the political struggle until his death, his friends in the civil service still remembered him and his contributions," he told BERNAMA.

Cuepacs and the Customs Officers Union wished to extend their condolences to Ahmad's widow and children, said Abdul Rahman, who is also Peninsular Malaysia Customs Officers Union Secretary-General.

"We hope Ahmad's family will be patient in this time of bereavement and accept his death as fated," he said.

Cuepacs also thanked the Kuala Lumpur Hospital authorities for extending all the medical facilities to Ahmad.

The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) also mourned the loss of its former deputy president Ahmad who served the umbrella body for private sector unions from 1988 to 1990.

"Ahmad Nor's death is a great loss to the organised labour movement," its president Senator Zainal Rampak said in a statement.

He said during the tenure of his services to the labour movement, Ahmad was largely responsible for inculcating the trade union solidarity spirit among civil servants and always spoke without fear or favour on all matters affecting the well-being and rights of workers, particularly civil servants.

"His friendly and highly sociable nature earned him a lot of good friends, and he always got along well with his peers. It is these sterling qualities that enabled him to serve the organised labour movement with exemplary credit.

"We express our heartfelt condolences to his family members on the loss of a loved one and we pray that his departed soul rest in peace," he added.

Lim described Ahmad as a great Malaysian son whose passing was an irreparable loss to the DAP and the nation.

He said Ahmad was a politician and a trade unionist par excellence and he was way ahead of his time.

"He symbolises Bangsa Malaysia 30 years before Vision 2020 of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Malaysia needs more Ahmad Nors who can rise above racial, religious, linguistic and cultural differences to be first and last a Malaysian," he

said in a statement.

Lim said he persuaded Ahmad to join the DAP after the 1986 general election and he first stood on the DAP ticket in the Gopeng parliamentary by-election in 1987. In 1990, he was elected the DAP MP for Bayan Baru.

"In all these years in the DAP, Ahmad Nor played an important role in the battle for democracy, justice and human rights for all Malaysians.

"DAP sends the deepest condolences to his wife and family on their bereavement," he said.

MIC President and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the death of Ahmad was a great loss to workers in the country because he had contributed to the welfare of this country when he was the president of Cuepacs.

"I have known him for many years. He is a good worker and workers were always at his heart," he told BERNAMA.

Samy Vellu, who visited Ahmad at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital this morning, expressed his condolences to Ahmad's wife and family on their bereavement.

-- BERNAMA

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