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Azizan-Tribute
AZIZAN KEPT HECTIC PACE TO HIS LAST DAY

By: Azman Ujang

KUALA LUMPUR, July 14 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin kept a very hectic pace attending several meetings daily, even hours before he died this morning.

Azizan, 69, who wore several corporate hats including chairman of the National Oil Corporation Petronas and Malaysia Airlines (MAS), met Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop at his office in Putrajaya yesterday evening to discuss matters relating to Putrajaya Corporation.

Putrajaya Corporation of which Azizan was also chairman, is the developer of Putrajaya, the new federal government's administrative capital.

According to his personal assistant Tengku Taufik Tengku Aziz, after meeting Nor Mohamed, Azizan held another meeting with lawyers on the Yayasan Kepimpinan Perdana, the foundation which looks after the affairs of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

" Then he went through his schedules for the rest of this week and for next week with me before going home at about 5.45 pm," Tengku Taufik told Bernama.

Tengku Taufik, who has been Azizan's aide for two years said: "Everything seemed normal with him and all of us were completely shocked to hear of his death.

Azizan complained of breathing difficulties and chest pains at about 4.15 am and died shortly after at his home in Putrajaya, according to a MAS official.

" He looked as healthy as he normally was. When we first heard the news, some of us could not believe it," said Tengku Taufik.

But Tengku Aziz said he noticed lately that Azizan's latest appointment as a member of the recently formed Royal Commission on the Police seemed to have " worn down my boss".

" He had very hectic schedules and most of the time had to attend

multiple meetings. Sometimes he had to limit the duration of these meetings," he added.

Asked if his boss had spoken of suffering from any illness, he said: "

Not that I know of, except of course the normal ailments which people of his age normally have".

" I don't think he will be able to be replaced," Tengku Taufik said.

Second Finance Minister Nor Mohamed told Bernama Azizan came by his office at 4.15pm and they met for over 20 minutes.

" His contributions to the nation are absolutely tremendous and his death is indeed a great loss," he said of the man who had also served as senior aide to the previous three prime ministers.

Nor Mohamed said Azizan was instrumental in developing Petronas into what it was today -- the world's most profitable oil company.

He said under Azizan's stewardship, the development of Putrajaya as an administrative hub had become the envy of many countries.

Nor Mohamed said Azizan was also instrumental in the recent turnaround of MAS after years of losses.

" A man like Azizan isn't born everyday," he said.

" The hallmark of Azizan's character was absolute honesty and integrity.

" He was the quinessential public servant of the highest rank," Nor Mohamed said.

Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Mohamad Shaid Mohd Taufek said Azizan attended a meeting yesterday morning at Cityhall here as a member of the newly-set up Management Coordination Committee on Federal Territories.

It was the first meeting of the panel and chaired by Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Samad.

" Tan Sri Azizan spoke a lot at the meeting. He told us of his vision to turn Putrajaya into a beautiful city that won't be spoilt by over-development like Kuala Lumpur," Mohamad Shaid told Bernama.

" He even apologised to me for saying so. He said KL was so beautiful

at one time but now it is too cluttered," he said.

He quoted Azizan as saying that so much painstaking efforts and money had gone into the development of Kuala Lumpur and if it was not well looked after, its beauty would be lost further.

" He told us many other things at the meeting. I feel that I

have lost
a fellow public servant of extraordinary qualities, integrity and
honesty.

" Tan Sri Azizan kept a low profile but he produced big
results," said
the mayor.

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