

Abdullah pays last respects

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KUALALUMPUR: "Our wives were such good friends" were the words from Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to Pressmen at the home of Tan Sri Francis Yeoh.

The Prime Minister made the brief statement after paying his last respects to Yeoh's wife Puan Sri Rosaline Yeoh who died on Friday of cancer.

Yeoh later said that he was thankful that the Prime Minister came over to console him.

"We share the same grief. He has such comforting words. He is a strongman.

"I am learning from him how to cope after losing my wife.

"Both of us saw how our wives suffered but when they departed, they went in such gentle and peaceful manner without suffering at all."

Abdullah's wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood died on Oct 20 last year of cancer.

Yeoh said Rosaline and Endon often spoke over the phone and exchanged text

messages.

"They were good friends. Both had the incredible ability to touch people."

He is beginning to feel the loneliness now, he added.

"It is slowly creeping into me. She was everything — a mother, wife, everything.

"Suddenly, there is such a huge hollow in my heart. But I have accepted the fact and I have to move on."

He said the house he lived in reminded him so much of his wife.

"She designed it... every detail. She will be missed not only in Malaysia but also in Hong Kong.

"Not only her fans but the general public, too," he said of his wife, who was a former Hong Kong actress.

Others who paid their last respects yesterday included Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Datuk Effendi Norwawi, Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, Datuk Jamaludin Jarjis, Khairy Jamaludin and Anita Sarawak.

The funeral is scheduled for Thursday.



Abdullah (background) consoling Yeoh yesterday.