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Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad with Muhammad Nur Nazari Mohd at Yayasan Al-Bukhary, Subang Jaya, yesterday. — NST picture by Ahmad Irfam Mohd Noor

# Bone cancer patient thrilled to meet Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR: It was an ecstatic moment for Muhammad Nur Nazari Mohd, 15, when he got to meet his idol, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, yesterday.

This terminally-ill bone cancer patient is aware that he may not have many years left, but he will always cherish the kind words Dr Mahathir said to him.

"I've always looked up to Dr Mahathir since I got to know about him in primary school. When my doctor said that my illness was terminal, and if I had a wish I wanted fulfilled, I thought that I would like to meet him and talk to him about my illness since he is a doctor himself," said Nazari, adding that he was informed of the meeting on Monday.

Nazari was diagnosed with bone tumour in 2007, which has now spread to his lungs.

Since then, he had undergone seven operations, one of which resulted in the amputation of his right shoulder. He is currently under palliative care.

Thanks to the efforts of the Children's Wish Society (CWS) of Malaysia, Nazari's dream was made possible.

Accompanied by his mother, Rohani Kader Gani, 41, and grandmother Jemahbee Syed Mohd, 64, the family was flown in from their hometown in Seberang Prai, Penang, to Subang Jaya on Wednesday by Air Asia while the accommodation and logistics for the visit to see Dr Mahathir at Yayasan Al-Bukhary, Jalan Perdana, was arranged by Holiday Villa Subang Jaya.

Nazari said his other wish was to perform umrah in Mecca.

The two-week trip with his family members, including his father, who could not be present yesterday, was made possible through the generosity of the public after his plight and wish was published by two Malay dailies in Penang.

In addition to his two wishes, Nazari will be receiving a laptop with Internet connection from CWS.

Nazari and his family also received passes to see the finals of the Proton Malaysia Open 2011 after Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, asked him if he liked badminton.

Dr Mahathir, who said this was the first time meeting a recipient of the CWS, said that he was glad to have had the opportunity to meet Nazari.

"I told him to keep himself occupied and not dwell on the disease. Nazari has something that is not curable, but he should have a good life for as long as possible," he said.

CWS president Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam said that the CWS collaborated with hospitals to identify children below the age of 18 with terminal illnesses to make their wishes come true.

Since its inception three years ago, CWS has succeeded in fulfilling the wishes of some 80 children.

"There are a lot of children who are very ill out there. CWS' goal is to bring as many smiles back to those children," he said.

Also present were officials from CWS, Air Asia and Holiday Villa Subang Jaya.

For those who would like to know more about fulfilling the wishes of children with terminal diseases, visit <http://cws-malaysia.com>.