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## THE JOURNEY HOME

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# 'Remains of Muslims in good condition'

### A PROPER SEND-OFF:

Utmost care given to bodies of MH17 victims, says grand imam of Putra Mosque

**T**HE condition of the six Malaysian Muslim bodies recovered from the wreckage of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 has been described as "near perfect".

This led to the process of preparing them for burial taking less than an hour.

The Grand Imam of the Putra Mosque, Abdul Manaf Mat, said the good condition of the six bodies meant that the process of cleaning and preparing the remains according to the Muslim rites was done very easily.

"Many had assumed that the bodies of the victims were in bad shape. We, too, were surprised that

this wasn't the case at all," said Manaf when met by the *New Sunday Times* here.

Manaf had conducted the cleansing and preparation of the bodies with the assistance of eight officers from the Malaysian Islamic Development Department and the Armed Forces Religious Corp.

Manaf, who has been in Ukraine and the Netherlands since July 18 to oversee the funeral preparations for the victims, had also led the *solat jenazah* for the six victims.

The bodies, he said, were split according to gender for the purpose of bathing and *kafan* (wrapping in shroud).

He said there were three male victims and three female victims.

Abdul Manaf said utmost care was given to the bodies during the funeral preparation.

"A lot of detail went into managing the bodies. After being bathed, they were wrapped in plastic and then cloth before being placed in caskets."

The female victims, he said, were clothed and garbed in *telekung* as



**The area where the remains of flight MH17 passengers are kept at Monuta Innemee funeral home in 'S-Gravenhage in the Netherlands yesterday. (At right) Putra Mosque Grand Imam Abdul Manaf Mat leading the 'solat jenazah' for the victims of flight MH17 in Amsterdam on Thursday.**

per Muslim requirements.

"Due to the bodies' good condition, the whole process took less than an hour."

Prayers were then conducted for the victims, attended by family members, Malaysian students in the Netherlands as well as Malaysian embassy staff.

Manaf said all that was left now was to bury the victims.

"However, we leave it to the victims' families if they wish to conduct another *solat jenazah* for their loved ones upon arrival in Malaysia."



**Najmuddin Najib  
Danial Saad  
Our team in  
Amsterdam**