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# Najib pays last respects

## SOMBRE MOMENT:

Large crowd at funeral of PM's aide Azlin

KAJANG

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor attended the *solat jenazah* (prayer for the deceased) at Saujana Impian surau to pay their last respects to the late private secretary to the prime minister, Datuk Azlin Alias, yesterday.

Clad in a white *baju melayu*, Najib arrived at the surau just before *zohor* prayers, before leaving for the burial of the late Rompin member of Parliament, Tan Sri Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis, at the Heroes Mausoleum in the National Mosque.

Around 500 people came for Azlin's funeral, with many arriving as early as 8am.

Azlin, Jamaluddin and four others were killed in a helicopter crash near Semenyih on Saturday.

A sombre atmosphere enveloped the house, with guests holding back tears when the hearse carrying the remains from the Kuala Lumpur Hospital mortuary arrived at the residence in Saujana Impian Golf and Country Club at 12.45pm.

After the *solat jenazah*, Azlin's remains were brought to Batu 13 Muslim cemetery in Cheras, where he was laid to rest in front of over 1,000 family members and friends.

Azlin's second son, Amirul Akmal Aznil, 19, was among those who helped lower the coffin into the ground. The *taiqin* (funeral



rites), was led by Putra Mosque Grand Imam, Abdul Manaf Mat.

Azlin's driver, Syaruddin Shariff, 36, said his boss made a last-minute decision to board the helicopter.

"I was to drive him home from Pekan after attending the prime minister's daughter's wedding reception," he said, adding it was normal for Azlin to change his schedule.

"Datuk (Azlin) called to tell me that he and Jamaluddin would be returning to Kuala Lumpur by helicopter," said Syaruddin, who had worked with Azlin for four years.

He learnt the bad news at 5pm on Saturday.

"I was very close to him. He was a good and generous man, always concerned over my wellbeing."

Amirul, said his father's last words to him were *belajar rajin*

(study hard).

"The last time I heard his voice was on Tuesday night. He knew I was preparing for my A-Levels exam and called to wish me luck," said the accounting student.

Azlin, a father of three, leaves behind wife Datin Azlina Mohamad and children, Amir Ashraf, 22, Amirul Akmal and Aisha Maryam, 14.

Azlin's cousin, Mohd Shamsir Ariffin, 63, said Azlin had a twin sister, Alinda, who died of an illness in Australia when she was 26 while Azlin was studying there.

"He has joined his twin sister now," said Shamsir. "He always stayed connected with family members. Be it weddings, funerals or festivities, he would always be there with us," said Shamsir, a businessman based in Kundang.

Among those present at the fu-

neral were Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Hasan Malek; Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong; Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam; Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa; Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil; former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi; Malaysia Airiines chief executive officer Ahmad Jauhari Yahya; AirAsia Group CEO Tan Sri Tony Fernandes; Media Prima Berhad group managing director Datuk Seri Amrin Awaluddin; NSTP CEO Datuk Mohammad Azlan Abdullah; Media Prima Berhad Television Networks Group CEO Datuk Seri Ahmad Farid Ridzuan; and NSTP group managing editor Datuk Abdul Jalil Hamid.