

Families in PM's thoughts

Ismail Sabri reaches out with personal contribution

KUALA KANGSAR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob extended contributions to the families of three Universiti Sultan Azlan Shah (Usas) students who were killed in a crash on the North-South Expressway northbound here.

The contributions were presented by his political secretary, Datuk Syed Mohd Fazmi Sayid Mohamad, at the accommodation venue provided by the Perak government for the victims' families here yesterday.

"I am representing the Prime Minister in visiting the families of the students who are still here ... to hand over cash contributions as he is currently in the United States.

"The Prime Minister extends his condolences and hopes that the bodies sent to the Taiping Hospital Forensic Unit will be identified.

"We have contacted the relevant parties for burial in accordance with the families' wishes," Syed Mohd Fazmi told reporters after visiting the families of the crash victims.

He expressed his appreciation to the Perak government for the quick assistance rendered to the victims' families including financial assistance and temporary accommodation while awaiting the post-mortems to be completed.

Two of the five students of Usas who were killed in a fiery car crash at KM245.2 of the North-South Expressway northbound here were identified by their families in an autopsy at Hospital Kuala Kangsar.

The forensics team at the Taiping Hospital is using dental records to confirm the identities of three more victims.

"The next of kin have provided samples for DNA testing which will be sent to the Department of Chemistry in Cheras for analysis," said Kuala Kangsar district police chief ACP Omar Bakhtiar Yaacob.

"If there are similarities (between the dental remains and records), then their identities can be ascertained.

"If not, we have to use the DNA method," he said in a statement, where he added the post mortem had been completed on all victims.



Final farewell: Ahmad Naim's father, Ahmad Hafizan Abdul Rahman, 49, surrounded by his wife Shamila (second right), daughter Nur Diana, 17, and family members, helping his youngest daughter Nur Damia, 12, pour rose water over the grave of his eldest son. – Bernama

So far, only Ahmad Akmal Ahmad Mokhlis, 20, from Parit Buntar, Perak and Ahmad Naim Najmi Ahmad Hafizan, 21, from Kemaman, Terengganu, have been positively identified.

The three other victims are believed to be Muhammad Nasrun Aidol Munir Akbar, 22, who was the driver, Muhammad Nabil Haikal Muhammad Fariz, 19, and Iqbal Hasnun Halimi, 23.

Earlier, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Special Functions) Datuk Mastura Mohd Yazid, who is the Kuala Kangsar MP, visited the families of the victims and handed over personal contributions.

In Chukai, the remains of Ahmad Naim was buried at 8.15am at the Kijal Muslim cemetery yesterday.

A funeral prayer was held at the

Raja Permaisuri Bainun Mosque at Usas after Isyak prayers before the remains were taken to the victim's family home in Kampung Pantai Penunjuk, Kijal.

Some 100 family members, relatives and friends were present to pay their last respects, Bernama reported.

The victim's mother, Shamila Abdullah, 44, said she felt relieved after the remains of her eldest child was brought home and buried.

She expressed her deep appreciation and thanks to all parties - the hospital, USAS and friends - who helped to make the funeral arrangements.

"Although sad, my husband and I remained calm with his passing.

"He was a very good child, a good brother and a role model for his three younger siblings," she said as

she held back her tears.

Meanwhile, the Road Transport Department (JPJ) confirmed that the trailer driver who was arrested in connection with the incident has nine offences on record, with eight settled, and one still outstanding.

In a statement yesterday, JPJ said its mySIKAP system found that the record of offences with 12 demerit points under the Demerit Points System For Traffic Offences (KEJARA) could lead to the suspension or revocation of a driving licence.

"Audits under the Occupational Safety and Health Industry Code of Practice for Road Transport Activities 2010 together with the Land Public Transport Agency are being done to determine the form of legal action that can be taken," it added.