

Nurul Atikah speaks to her No. 1 hero
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KAMUNTING: Bedridden and in great pain, Nurul Atikah Bazilah Samsudin's eyes lit up upon hearing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's voice.

Suffering from end-stage bone cancer, it has always been the 14-year-old's wish to meet Najib, who is her No. 1 hero, in person.

However, because of her condition, she managed only to speak by telephone to Najib, after arrangements were made by the Children's Wish Society of Malaysia and Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir at her house here yesterday.

"Hello. Assalamualaikum. I am well. How are you?" asked Najib. "I am on medication and not able to walk," was Nurul Atikah's reply as she spoke on Zambry's handphone.

Najib, who sounded concerned, was heard saying: "You have to be strong and patient. Make sure you take your medication. I pray for your recover y.

"Are you able to go to school? How many brothers and sisters do you have? " Nurul Atikah replied: "I cannot attend classes now and am the youngest of three siblings." Najib then ended the call by sending his regards to her parents and wishing them Selamat Hari Raya.

"Although it was a brief conversation, I am happy that I managed to talk to my idol," Nurul Atikah said before crying as the pain was unbearable.

Her mother, Che Tom Osman, 45, who was massaging her, scrambled to get some ointment to relieve the pain.

"She had always wanted to meet Najib in person and shake his hands. She really likes Najib after seeing him so many times on the news," said the housewife.

Nurul Atikah was first diagnosed with bone cancer in 2009 and had undergone 12 surgeries and 18 chemotherapy sessions at Universiti Malaya Medical Centre.

The once-active girl, who loves durian and petai rebus, is now being given morphine to help cope with the pain.

Zambry praised Nurul Atikah for her fighting spirit.

“Even the prime minister is praying for her recovery. He (Najib) asked me to fulfil Nurul Atikah’s wish.”

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