

## **USABC Mourns Death Of Jamaluddin And Azlin**

**Bernama**

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**By Manik Mehta**

WASHINGTON, April 5 (Bernama) -- As messages of grief and condolences poured from around the world following the deaths of Tan Sri Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis and Datuk Azlin Alias, the Washington-based US-ASEAN Business Council (USABC), the premier advocacy organisation for United States (U.S) companies operating in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states, was among the first to express its condolences.

The USABC told Bernama in a statement that it offered its condolences to Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, the people and government of Malaysia as well as the families of Jamaluddin, the Malaysian special envoy to the US, and Datuk Seri Azlin Alias, the Prime Minister's principal private secretary, who were among six people killed in a helicopter tragedy in Semenyih yesterday.

The USABC, with which Jarjis worked closely on promoting business and economic ties with the US when he was Malaysian ambassador to the US from July 2009 to February 2012, serves as a platform for the interests of US corporations that operate in the ASEAN region.

The Council members generate over US\$6 trillion in revenue and employ more than 13 million people.

Aside from his foreign postings, Jamaluddin was also the chairman of the 1Malaysia Peoples' Housing Corporation (PR1MA) and a Member of Parliament representing Rompin in Pahang, since 1980. Jamaluddin had been elected to Umno's Supreme Council since 2000.

According to the USABC, Jamaluddin, popularly called JJ, was a "driving force" in improving diplomatic and business ties between Malaysia and the United States since Najib took over the prime ministership of Malaysia in 2008.

"He (Jamaluddin) assumed the post of Ambassador to the United States in July of 2009, from which he tirelessly promoted US-Malaysia relations.

"Following the end of the posting in February 2012, he maintained his commitment to the US-Malaysia relationship through his position as Special Envoy to the US and worked to strengthen the trade and economic relationship between our two countries," the USABC stated in a eulogy issued after the announcement of Jamaluddin's' death.

"I had the great privilege of working with Tan Sri JJ for many years.

He was a great friend of American business and a great counselor in helping to guide the US-Malaysia relationship, especially since Najib took office," said Alexander Feldman,

President and CEO of the USABC.

"Tan Sri JJ will be remembered for his leadership role in the growth and deepening of the political, diplomatic and strategic relationship between the US and Malaysia. The members and staff of the US-ASEAN Business Council will most of all remember him as a friend whose energy and spirit will not be forgotten," he said.

"He really raised the profile of Malaysia while he was Ambassador and played an important role during President Barack Obama's historic visit to Malaysia last year.

"We send our deepest condolences to his family and the people of Malaysia."

The USABC described Azlin, as a "key supporter" of the Council who frequently assisted with arranging meetings with Najib.

"Datuk Azlin was always a great friend to American business and the Council," stated Feldman.

"He was instrumental in helping to arrange Prime Minister Najib's many visits to the United States and engagements with the American business community.

He will be greatly missed," he added.

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