

Alagille Syndrome Patient Addi Asyraaf Finally Meets His Beloved PM
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KUCHING, April 24 (Bernama) -- Addi Asyraaf Mohamad who has Alagille syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects the liver, heart, and other organs could only admire Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak from afar.

He had been stressing his wish to meet the Prime Minister for two years, and that wish was finally granted today.

Addi Asyraaf, 6, was awestruck upon seeing Najib and Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor arrive at his doorstep at 3.20 pm and instinctively ran up to hug and give his idol a kiss.

'Adik' as he is affectionately addressed, held Najib's hand and made the 'peace' sign to media photographers waiting to record the historic moment at Kampung Bintawa Tengah, about 15 minutes from here.

The prime minister and his wife spent some time with the lad and his parents, Zurina Jamil, 37, and Mohamad Missbahuddin Mohamad, 37, and brother Addi Amiruddin, 7.

Zurina was seen updating the prime minister and Rosmah on her son's situation while showing the dates for his medical appointments.

Najib who is on a working visit to Sarawak then presented a gift to Addi Asyraaf who immediately opened it to find a toy car.

"Addi likes this," he said grinning, and turned to share his excitement with his brother.

Najib and Rosmah were served 'kuih lapis' that Sarawak is well known for, curry puffs and other traditional cakes before the villagers seized the opportunity to take some photographs and shake hands with them.

Addi Asyraaf was seen giving Najib and Rosmah a hug before they left the house about 40 minutes later.

Zurina, a housewife, when met by Bernama, expressed her gratitude and appreciation to everyone who had made her son's wish come true.

"Addi Asyraaf had wanted to meet the PM after seeing his photograph and image on television, at his preschool and at home since he was four years old and he would repeatedly ask when he could get to see him in person.

"The doctor said he could only live up to six years, that's why I really wanted his wish to be granted.

"Thank you to Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim

and the PM's political secretary Datuk Muhammad Khairun Aseh for helping to make it possible," said Zurina while trying to restrain her tears.

Zurina said her son was confirmed to be suffering from Allagile Syndrome when he was three years old; he was diagnosed with liver complications at age one following high fever.

Since then, she said, Addi Asyraaf's health had deteriorated and he could no longer move actively like other children his age.

She said Addi Asyaraaf is presently receiving treatment from various specialists at Kuching Hospital and Selayang Hospital in Kuala Lumpur.

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