

**Najib Joins Funeral Prayers for Noriah**  
**Bernama**  
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KUCHING, May 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak performed the funeral prayers with other members of the congregation for Plantation Industries and Commodities Deputy Minister Datuk Noriah Kasnon at Surau Al-Jahirah, at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Kuching air base here tonight.

Noriah was killed in a helicopter crash in Sebuyau yesterday. The fate of the pilot and four others who were on board is still unknown.

Also joining the prayers were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Noriah's family members.

Her remains were then flown to RMAF's Subang base in Selangor in a military aircraft.

Noriah's foster brother, Datuk Zaini Taha said her remains will be buried tonight or tomorrow in Kampung Sungai Burung, Tanjung Karang, Selangor.

"It depends on the time of arrival. If early the burial will be tonight itself, if not tomorrow morning," he told Bernama.

Besides Noriah, also onboard the ill-fated helicopter were her husband Asmuni Abdullah and Kuala Kangsar MP Datuk Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad, who is also the chairman of the Malaysian Palm Oil Board.

Also on board were Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Sundaran Annamalai, Noriah's bodyguard Ahmad Sobri Harun and Filipino pilot Rudolf Rex Ragas.

The Eurocopter AS350 helicopter was on a flight from Betong to Kuching when it vanished from radar screens at 4.12pm yesterday.

Pieces of the helicopter were found near the Batang Lupar river in Sebuyau around 9am today. At noon rescuers retrieved the body of Noriah where the debris were found.

Noriah was in Betong on ministerial duties.

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