

**Noriah's Passing Big Loss to Nation - Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak tonight described the passing of Deputy Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Noriah Kasnon in a helicopter crash in Sarawak yesterday as a big loss to the nation.

The Prime Minister said in a post on his Facebook account that Noriah had been committed to her work and was toiling with loyalty until her last breath.

"I share the grief with members of her family and all Malaysians. Condolences to her family. May her soul be placed among the faithful. Al-Fatihah," he said.

Najib said the search-and-rescue efforts for the five other people who were on board the ill-fated aircraft were continuing.

"The people will be updated on the developments," he added.

Noriah's body was found at noon today near some parts of the Eurocopter AS350 helicopter that were found at a bank of the Batang Lupar near Sebuyau.

The helicopter had gone down during a flight from Betong to Kuching yesterday evening.

The other five people who were on that ill-fated flight are Noriah's husband Asmuni Abdullah, Kuala Kangsar MP Datuk Wan Muhammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad, Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Sundaran Annamalai, Noriah's bodyguard Ahmad Sobri Harun and Filipino pilot Rudolf Rex Ragas.

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