

## **Abdul Manan A Close Friend, Dedicated Leader - PM Najib**

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- The late Datuk Seri Abdul Manan Ismail was a leader who had contributed so much not only to UMNO, but also to the people he represented, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said tonight.

The prime minister said this was because Abdul Manan had discharged his duties with the highest level of dedication throughout his service.

Najib said he was deeply saddened by Abdul Manan's death as the two-term Paya Besar Member of Parliament had once served as his private secretary when he (Najib) was the Youth and Sports Minister.

"I have known him for years and we were close friends."

"I'm deeply saddened by his sudden demise, not only as Paya Besar MP, but as a close friend to me and my family," he said after paying his last respect to Abdul Manan at the latter's house in Taman Melawati here.

Also present was Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

Also paying their last respect to Abdul Manan tonight were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Yang Dipertua Negeri of Melaka Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar and Communications and Multimedia Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Jailani Johari.

Abdul Manan died at about 6.45 pm after falling in the bathroom at his house in Taman Melawati here.

The funeral prayers will be held at the Al-Hidayah Mosque, Taman Melawati and the remains will be laid to rest at the Klang Gate Muslim cemetery after the Zohor prayers tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Zahid said he had known Abdul Manan ever since they worked together under Najib when he (Najib) was the Youth and Sports Minister.

He was my colleague, he was the private secretary and I was the political secretary to Datuk Seri Najib.

As an MP, he had also worked closely with me as he would report certain things to me as the Barisan Nasional parliamentary whip chief, said Ahmad Zahid, who also prayed that Abdul Manan's soul be blessed and placed among the righteous.

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