

## **Bernama boss describes late Abdul Aziz as man of high integrity**

**BERNAMA**

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- The former principal private secretary to Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Ismail, who passed away today, has been described as a man of high integrity and dedicated to his work.

Abdul Aziz, 76, died at his home in Bangsar at 10am today after suffering from breathing problems and was buried at the Bukit Kiara Muslim Cemetery after the Asar prayers.

Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) editor-in-chief Datuk Zakaria Abdul Wahab described Abdul Aziz, who served Dr Mahathir, the then fourth Prime Minister, for a long time from 1981, as someone who was soft-spoken and well-liked by everyone.

“He was staff-friendly, kind and very close to employees at all levels, from the drivers and clerks to the higher ups.

“He was very meticulous in ensuring Dr Mahathir’s programme in governing the country at that time went smoothly. He would send officers to study and check the preparations for all events or visits to be attended by the Prime Minister,” he told Bernama when he went to pay his last respects to Abdul Aziz at the Saidina Abu Bakar Mosque, Bangsar Baru here earlier today.

Zakaria, who used to work with Abdul Aziz from 1992 until 2000 when he was the press secretary to the fourth Prime Minister, said that before he (Abdul Aziz) retired from civil service in 2000, he left behind a legacy by drawing up a standard operating procedure (SOP) to facilitate other officers performing their duties.

Meanwhile, Abdul Aziz’s personal assistant, Baharum Harun, 58, who served him for 35 years, said his employer was a calm man and well-liked by everyone.

“He emphasised perfection in everyone’s work and made sure we completed the tasks given to us. He made us feel comfortable working for him and never scolded anyone for no reason.

“The one thing I cannot forget about him is that he was always prudent, caring and frequently asked about his employees’ well-being,” said Baharum, who was at Abdul Aziz’s residence from early morning.

Former personal assistant to Dr Mahathir, Khamisah Sabdin, 70, described Abdul Aziz as a person who was firm in his handling of duties and taking care of workers’ welfare,.

“I worked with him for more than 30 years. He was the best private secretary. He looked after the staff from the lowest rank to the highest. If anyone held any functions, he would be there,” she said.

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