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# Sad, but pleased dad fulfilled wish

**JEMPOL:** The family of Abdullah Kanchil, 56, who died in Mecca, has accepted his death as fate.

His son, Mohamad Saiful, 26, said, though the family was saddened by his death, they were pleased that their father's wish to perform haj was fulfilled.

"He had waited for the opportunity for five years. My father was really happy when he knew that his name was listed to go on the pilgrimage this year," he said.

Saiful, who tied the knot just before his parents left for Makkah, said he was happy to fulfil one of his father's wishes.

"He had always wanted me to get married. I am glad that he was able to witness my big day," said the youngest of four siblings.

"Before he left on Aug 6, my father

kept on reminding me to take good care of our house and to look after my mother should anything happen to him while he was in Mecca."

Abdullah died in Mecca on Sept 12 at 2.15am (local time). He was buried at Syaraek Cemetery Centre at 5pm (local time) on the same day.

His wife, Noriah Samah, 56, who accompanied him on their pilgrimage, said he died in his sleep in Mina.

"He told me to take good care of myself and our house before he went to sleep that night. At about 2.15am (local time) I tried to wake him up to perform prayers, but he did not respond. His body was cold and I expected the worst," said Noriah.

"I have lost not only a good husband, but also a good friend," she said

Noriah said her late husband was known as a good cook in Felda Palong Tujuh.

"He was warm to everyone, which made him a likeable person.

"I am sure that everyone will miss him," said Noriah when met at her home near here, during a visit by Tabung Haji board of directors member Tan Sri Abdul Shukor Husin yesterday.

Abdul Shukor said as of Monday, 25 pilgrims had died in Mecca this year.

Abdul Shukor said 20 flights carrying haj pilgrims had arrived safely in the country. The last batch of pilgrims was expected to arrive on Oct 15.

A total of 22,320 pilgrims from Malaysia performed the haj this season.



Tabung Haji board of directors member **Tan Sri Abdul Shukor Husin** (left) with **Nasrol Ridzwan**, the son of Abdullah Kanchil, who died on Sept 12 in Mecca while completing the haj, at the family's home in Jempol yesterday. Pic by Abnor Hamizam Abd Manap