

# Mourners pay last respects to Pak Mie

Friends speak fondly of man who gave his all to caring for stray dogs and cats

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**ALOR SETAR:** Scores of mourners from all races came to pay their last respects to animal rescuer Muhammad Azmi Ismail or Pak Mie, who had run a shelter for stray cats and dogs.

Many of his friends, Malay, Chinese and Indians alike, spoke fondly of Pak Mie when they visited his home in Alor Malai here yesterday.

A sombre atmosphere filled Masjid al-Bukhary cemetery here as friends and families had one final glimpse of Pak Mie.

The 57-year-old died on Sunday in Ampang Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, after suffering a stroke three days ago.

A friend, who only wanted to be known as Yang, said Pak Mie would always come over to his restaurant and talk about his plans for his animal shelter which housed hundreds of stray dogs and cats.

"The last thing he told me was that his 'furlkids' would have a proper home in two years' time. Now, I don't know what will happen next," he said yesterday.

Pak Mie and his wife Halijah Idris, 68, fondly known as Mak Intan, were in Nilai, Negri Sembilan for a meeting in relation to the shelter when

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the incident happened. Mak Intan collapsed shortly upon seeing Pak Mie's body.

A relative said she had not eaten since Pak Mie was hospitalised.

SPCA Kedah president Devi Raji who was present, said they would initiate a donation drive from Kedah, Penang and Kuala Lumpur for the stray animals.

"We will help as much as we can to alleviate Mak Intan's plight," she said.

Pak Mie and Mak Intan have been looking after stray dogs and cats since 1990. Their shelter in Alor Setar houses around 700 dogs and 200 cats.

Mak Intan had also assured that the shelter would continue to operate with the help of Pak Mie's 29-year-old son Alif Pandi and two volunteers.

The couple's story came to light when a 2013 video of their work went viral.



**Gone too soon:** Pak Mie tending to his dogs as Mak Intan helps out in the background at their shelter in Alor Setar in this photograph taken last year.