

TRAGEDY

# 'WE SPOTTED NORA'S BODY FROM 20M AWAY'

Volunteer searcher describes how group found teen's remains

SEREMBAN

**T**HE group of volunteer searchers who found the body of French-Irish teen Nora Anne Quoirin spotted it from 20m away but did not approach it.

Instead, the group immediately informed the authorities about the discovery.

Kenny Chan, a spokesman for the group from a hiking club here, said he and 24 members had joined the search-and-rescue (SAR) operation about noon.

He said they and several other members of the SAR operation were searching an area near

a river.

"We conducted a search along the river before breaking up into two groups to widen the search area.

"The group I was in was following the flow of the river when we saw a body about 20m away, but we didn't approach it.

"Instead, we contacted the authorities immediately."

Chan said the group did not dare to approach the body as they were unsure if somebody else had found it earlier and had contacted the authorities.

He said he and the other members of the group had given their statements to investigators at the Pantai police station

on Tuesday.

Chan said the group had joined the SAR operation on Sunday, then decided to help out for a second time on Tuesday.

Nora's body was found at 1.57pm about 2.5km from the resort from where she had disappeared on Aug 4.

It was reported that the spot she was found was not far from a waterfall which she had told her mother she was excited about visiting.

Her body was winched out by helicopter and flown to Tuanku Ja'afar Seremban Hospital here.

Her parents, Sebastien and Meabh, later identified her remains.



The lawyer for Nora Anne Quoirin's family, Sankara N. Nair, speaking to the media at Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital in Seremban yesterday. PIC BY IOMAL HAQIM ROSMAN



## Nora's family lawyer to contact A-GC on possible inquest

**SEREMBAN:** The lawyer for Irish teen Nora Anne Quoirin's family will contact the Attorney-General Chambers (A-GC) if there is a need for an inquest once the post-mortem results are out.

Counsel Sankara N. Nair, who was appointed by the family on the second day of Nora Anne's disappearance on Aug 5, said according to the procedure, the post-mortem report would be sent to the A-GC whether or not there was criminal element in the case.

"Procedurally, what happens is, a copy of the post-mortem report will go to the A-GC and it is for the attorney-general to decide or in-

struct if there is a need for an inquest.

"Normally, sudden deaths of such nature would invite an inquest, but it depends on the evidence presented in the report and police investigation

"I will then require the A-G to consider whether there is a need for an inquest," he said at the forensic department of Tuanku Ja'afar Seremban Hospital (HTJS).

He said up to now, it was almost "impossible" to deduce if there is a criminal element involved in the case.

Later, Sankara is reported by Reuters as saying the police should accept an offer by French

authorities to help investigate Nora's death.

He also said the "family expects the police to do a thorough investigation into the incident, including criminal angles", clarifying an earlier comment that the family "won't press for anything" did not mean they opposed a full inquiry.

Sankara said family members were present at the mortuary yesterday to identify the body before the autopsy was conducted.

"They are distraught. It is so difficult to describe. They are in grief. I feel the same. To lose a child... It's sad.

"It is (a) very traumatic situ-

ation. It is about their daughter... a child; and naturally, the trauma level (is) very high."

Sankara said the family expressed their gratitude to the police and the authorities involved in the search-and-rescue operations.

Negri Sembilan deputy police chief Senior Assistant Commissioner Che Zakaria Othman said the initial autopsy on Nora would take at least three hours to complete and police would give a statement later.

After 10 days, the search-and-rescue efforts ended in tragedy on Tuesday following the discovery of Nora's body by a group of

hikers who volunteered to join the operation following a public tip-off.

The body, which was found around 1.57pm, was sent to HTJS and the identity was confirmed by Nora's parents at 9pm.

The family arrived in Negri Sembilan on Aug 3 for a two-week holiday in Malaysia and checked in at The Dusun resort on the same day.

They discovered the 15-year-old missing the next morning and found the large window in one of the rooms was left open, leading them to believe that the girl with special needs was abducted.