

Final outcome of Adib's inquest today

Investigation sought to determine events leading to fireman receiving his fatal injuries

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PETALING JAYA: The coroner will deliver her decision this morning after 41 days of inquest into the death of fireman Muhammad Adib Mohd Kassim. All attention will be on the Coroner's Court, presided by Sessions Court judge Rofiah Mohamad.

The inquest - which sought to determine the events leading to Adib receiving his fatal injuries on the early morning of Nov 27, 2018, - saw 30 witnesses being called to give their statements.

Witnesses ranged from Adib's fellow firemen, such as Ahmad Sharil Othman, the driver of the Emergency Medical Rescue Services (EMRS) van that Adib was in that morning, to members of the public and experts such as

forensic expert Dr Ahmad Hafizam Hasmi, who conducted the autopsy on the fireman, and physics expert, Dr Amir Radzi Ab Ghani.

The inquest was not without controversy, as it saw the withdrawal of lawyer Syazlin Mansor from the inquest.

Syazlin, who originally was representing the Housing and Local Government Ministry, the Fire and Rescue Department, and Adib's family, withdrew on May 27.

Syazlin later returned to the inquest to represent Adib's family, while senior federal counsels Suzana Atan, Mazlifah Ayob, Fadzilatul Isma Ahmad Rafngah and federal counsel Afiq Zainal Abidin were appointed to represent the Housing and Local Government Ministry and the Fire and Rescue Department.

After her withdrawal from the inquest, Syazlin said that Attorney General Tan Sri

Tommy Thomas had asked Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin to revoke the lawyer's appointment as representative for the Ministry and the Fire and Rescue Department at the inquest.

Thomas had on May 28 released a statement saying that Syazlin's appointment should be revoked as there was a conflict of interest in her representing the Ministry and the Fire and Rescue Department, while also representing Adib's family.

On Aug 27, judge Rofiah allowed Adib's father, Mohd Kassim Abdul Hamid, to commence contempt proceedings against Thomas over his statement, and an affidavit filed by former inquest conducting officer Hamdan Hamzah in April.

The affidavit was filed to object to an appeal and a stay of the application brought

by the Save Seafeld Mariamman Temple Task Force, which had sought to be included as an interested party in the inquest.

The affidavit allegedly stated that Adib's injuries were not caused by rioters in the vicinity of the temple that fateful morning.

Thomas, however, in an affidavit, had denied giving direct instructions to Hamdan regarding affidavits related to the inquest.

Adib, 24, became critically injured in the early morning of Nov 27 after he and his team members responded to an emergency call at the Seafeld Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, where a riot was taking place.

The fireman was taken to SJMC after he was found injured, before being transferred to the National Heart Institute for further treatment, where he later died at 9.41pm on Dec 17.