

# Narrow escape for Melaka CM in tree-falling incident

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A tree fell in Jalan Pinang here on Monday, damaging two vehicles but narrowly missing a car carrying Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Ab Rauf Yusoh.

Ab Rauf was passing the area in front of Kuwait Bank at about 3.30pm when the incident happened during a downpour.

His press secretary Ezlyn Fardiha Zainal, when contacted by Bernama, said the Chief Minister was travelling in a Lexus 350 to a meeting venue in the federal capital.

"As the Chief Minister's convoy was passing the place, a tree toppled over right in front of his (Ab Rauf) car, hitting an escorting Proton X70 police patrol car.

"The back windscreen and bonnet of the police car were damaged.

Ab Rauf's car was not hit and he emerged unscathed," she said.

A 10-second video has gone viral on social media showing a red Vellfire vehicle crushed by the uprooted tree.

It is learnt that the authorities closed that section of the road for clearing works.



Two vehicles damaged by the falling tree in Jalan Pinang, Kuala Lumpur on Monday. — Bernama photo

In Melaka, Ab Rauf said that at the time of the incident, his car could not move due to the bad weather.

He said that unfortunately, the police vehicle escorting him was caught by the falling tree.

"Alhamdulillah, I am fine and we hope that the authorities can monitor the trees around this city," he said in a short WhatsApp message to reporters.

Meanwhile, the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has been instructed to take immediate action by cutting down high-risk trees around the city following another tree-falling incident on Monday, which occurred just a week after the fatal incident on Jalan Sultan Ismail.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal

Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said that, at the same time, DBKL has also been directed to improve its Shade Tree Management Plan and to develop new guidelines related to aged or high-risk trees, to prevent similar incidents from recurring.

"In order to ensure environmental sustainability continues to be preserved and given attention, DBKL also needs to accentuate its tree replacement programme, including examining methods to ensure the trees remain solid and safe for the long term," she said in a statement here on Monday.

It was reported that another tree fell in Jalan Pinang here on Monday, damaging several vehicles but narrowly missing a car carrying the Melaka Chief Minister.

Last Tuesday, a man was killed, while another suffered serious injuries when a huge tree fell on 17 vehicles along Jalan Sultan Ismail, just outside the Concorde Hotel, during a thunderstorm and heavy rain. — Bernama