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Khor dies, by-election for Perlis seat

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KANGAR, Thurs. - Indera Kayangan State Assemblyman Datuk Khor Liang Tee died at the Gleneagles Intan Medical Centre in Kuala Lumpur last night, two months after he diagnosed with colon cancer.

The body of the 59-year-old former State Executive Councillor, who died at 11.47pm, was brought back from the medical centre and arrived at his house in Taman Muhibah, Jejawi, here at 7.20am today.

He will be cremated at a Buddhist temple in Padang Sera, Kedah, about 15km from here, on Monday.

With his death, a by-election will be held for the Indera Kayangan seat.

Khor, who resigned from the State Executive Council last week, is survived by his 56-year-old wife Datin Tan Chiew Liang, three sons - Choo Hong, 33, Choo Kwang, 30, Choo Pang, 27 - and a 17-year-old daughter Han Chian.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and his wife Datin Seri Shamsiah Mohd Yassin arrived at noon to pay their last respects and convey their condolences.

Shahidan also conveyed messages of condolences from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

"Khor's death is not only a big loss to the Chinese community but also to all the people of Perlis," Shahidan told a Press conference earlier in his office.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail, the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, the acting Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizzudin Syed Sirajuddin and his consort Lailatul Shahren Khalil arrived at Khor's house at 2.20pm to pay their last respects.

Former Perlis Menteri Besar Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh, several State Executive Councillors, Assemblymen and officials also paid their last respects.

Khor, who was the Perlis MCA chairman until his death, was first voted in with a 2,356 majority as Indera Kayangan Assemblyman in the 1990 general election.

He retained the seat in 1995 with a 3,333 majority and again in the last election in 1999 when he defeated Gao Shui Liang from Parti Keadilan Nasional with a majority 1,900 votes.

He was a former teacher and senior assistant of Sekolah Kebangsaan Stella Maris, Kangar.

Khor was also active in sports.

He holds a fifth dan black belt in taekwondo and had coached the Kedah and Perlis taekwondo teams.

Perlis MCA deputy chairman Loh Yoon Foo, who succeeded Khor as the State Housing and Local Government Committee chairman on Friday, described Khor's death as "a big loss to the party, the Chinese community and Indera Kayangan constituents."

Khor's third son, Choo Pang, a Klang-based dentist, said his father put up a brave battle against the illness which was to subsequently claim his life.

He said his father was first diagnosed with colon cancer in June of 1999 and had an operation in August that year.

"His entire stomach was removed and yet he went for the elections to

serve the people, and even when his illness recurred in 2000, he told us not to worry and not to give up hope, saying that he would continue to fight the illness," he said.

"He had a strong will as he would always put his sickness aside and carry out his duties first," he said.

"Even after the initial diagnosis he still went for his routine jogs."