

03 MAR 2002
Assemblyman-died
KETARI ASSEMBLYMAN DIES

BENTONG, March 3 (Bernama) -- Gerakan state assembly for Ketari Datuk Loke Koon Kam has died. He was 60 years old.

According to his second son Stephen, Loke who was battling jawbone cancer died at about 3.30pm at his house at Taman Marong here.

His wife, Datin Alice Tan Pek Yee was at his bedside when he died.

The Pahang Gerakan chairman was reported to be suffering from jawbone cancer for sometime and was undergoing chemotherapy.

Stephen said his father would be buried at the Bentong Christian Cemetery on Tuesday.

Loke is survived by a wife and two sons.

He was elected to the Karak seat in 1985 and in 1990 election, he retained the seat which was renamed Ketari.

In the last Nov 29, 1999 general elections, he was again re-elected to the seat, beating DAP's Choong Siew Onn by a 231-vote majority.

Gerakan secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye, in paying tribute to Loke, described him as a man who served the people till his last breath.

He said that despite his prolonged illness he never neglected his constituents.

"His wife has been helping him out to serve the people," he said, adding that Gerakan leaders would pay their last respects tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, met at his residence in Kuantan, described Loke's death as a big loss to the Barisan Nasional (BN).

He said he had informed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Pahang state legislative assembly speaker Datuk Wan Mohamed Razali Wan Mahussin about it.

He was diagnosed as having jawbone cancer two years ago, about six months after he retained his Ketari seat in the 1999 general elections, he said.

-- BERNAMA
MS HIS ABG