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Former MP for Bachok Buniyamin Yaacob dies at 56

KOTA BARU, Thurs. - Former Bachok MP Buniyamin Yaacob, 56, died at the Kota Baru Hospital early this morning.

State Pas secretary Wan Ismail Wan Jusoh said Buniyamin had been hospitalised regularly for the past year because of diabetes and kidney failure.

"His latest admission was two weeks ago and since then his condition worsened," he said.

Buniyamin leaves two wives, Sundasiah Surjo Pronoto, 48, and Norhaiti Ibrahim, 36, and eight children.

He died about 6am with Norhaiti at his bedside. The body was taken to Norhaiti's house at Banggol Pauh, Bekelam, Bachok, and then to Sundasiah's house at Kampung Keting, Gunung, also in Bachok.

He was buried at the Bukit Kecil cemetery in Gunung about 1.30pm.

Earlier, Pas leaders including Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat paid their last respects and performed prayers at Norhaiti's house.

Buniyamin, an information officer with the state information secretariat, won the Bachok parliamentary seat in the general election in 1990 and successfully defended the seat in 1995. He did not contest in the 1999 general election.

He was in the limelight last year when he was charged with criminal defamation over his allegation that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had watched a pornographic video with his grandchildren.

The charge under the Penal Code is punishable by up to two years' jail or a fine, or both.

Buniyamin had allegedly committed the offence at a ceramah at Pusat Tarbiyah Islamiyah in Pengkalan Chepa, here, between 10pm and 11.30pm on March 15, last year.

The trial, however, was postponed several times because of his ill health.