

## **Former Kedah MB Azizan passes away**

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**By Abdul Rahim Sabri**

Former Kedah menteri besar and incumbent Sungai Limau assemblyperson Azizan Abdul Razak died of heart complications at Hospital Sultan Bahiyah in Alor Setar at 11.05 this morning.

Jerai PAS secretary Muzaini Azizan said prayers will be held at the Pokok Sena PAS headquarters before his remains are to be brought to Muassasah Darul Umum at 5pm today.

He will be buried next to the grave of PAS president Fadzil Noor at Muassasah Darul Umum.

"Those who want to pay their final respects can do so at the headquarters," Muzaini told Malaysiakini.

azlanThis leaves the state seat open for a by-election, the second after Kuala Besut in Terengganu, since the May 5 general election.

Azizan, who passed away after a long battle with illness, is survived by two wives and 14 children.

He was the first Kedah menteri besar from a political party other than Umno.

He was appointed menteri besar on March 9, 2008, when PAS, PKR and DAP formed a coalition government after the 2008 general election. BN wrested Kedah back on May 5.

Azizan suffered from diabetes and heart disease, and was forced to amputate both his legs to prevent infection, after he fell into a coma a few days after the GE13 polling day.

He regained consciousness and spent three months recovering in the Penang Hospital after the amputation, before his transfer to the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital last month.

Despite fighting illness during the election campaign, he retained the Sungai Limau seat with a commendable majority of more than 2,700 votes.

'By-election will strengthen PAS'

PAS information chief Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man said that Azizan's passing was "a great loss for the party and the people of Kedah".

kedah defection ceramah 220510 mb azizan "He had led us to victory in the 12th general election... PAS's failure to retain Kedah was a big slap for the party," Tuan Ibrahim said.

He said that PAS would use the impending Sungai Limau by-election to strengthen the party.

Tuan Ibrahim said that among Azizan's last wishes was to see the success of Kolej Universiti Insaniah (Kuin).

He said Azizan had reminded now Kedah MB Mukhriz Mahathir to ensure that the tertiary institution, which received much bad press during Azizan's tenure, was developed accordingly.

Meanwhile, expressing his condolences on Twitter, PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim said Azizan was a "friend" and a "tenacious fighter".

"May Allah bless his soul," Anwar said.

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