

Nik Aziz saved Pakatan in 2008, says DAP MP

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Though allies in the opposition bloc, ties between DAP and PAS have often been strained due to their diametrically opposed ideologies.

However, a DAP lawmaker, in paying tribute to the late PAS spiritual leader, said Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat saved Pakatan Rakyat in 2008.

Back then, Liew Chin Tong recalled how there were elements in PAS and Umno which attempted to forge a unity government.

"But it was Nik Aziz who put a stop to it. This allowed Pakatan to survive until now," he said.

Liew was speaking at a forum at the Malaysiakini office building when news of the PAS leader's passing was announced late last night.

As for the 84-year-old politician, who died following a long battle with prostate cancer, the DAP MP described him as a "unique figure" in Malaysian politics.

"His passing is definitely a loss to this country. I find him very intelligent. Beneath the soft image, he is a very sharp and intelligent man.

"Without him, definitely there will be challenges that we must face," he added.

Once again, DAP and PAS find themselves in a familiar spot with regard to their relationship being on the rocks.

Pakatan has been dealt with two major blows this week, the first being the conviction and jailing of Anwar Ibrahim.

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