

Tenang lawmaker's death sparks 14th by-election in Johor
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KUALA LUMPUR — The death of Tenang state assemblyman Sulaiman Taha has sparked another by-election - the 14th since the general election of 2008.

Sulaiman died early Friday morning at a private hospital outside Kuala Lumpur. He was 59.

The two-term Johor state representative, who was also the Labis Umno division chief, has been undergoing treatment for diabetes and high blood pressure since Nov 24.

He leaves wife Noraini Yaakop and seven children. Funeral prayers were held at the Masjid Ubudian Ampang Tasik before his remains were sent to Labis for burial.

Sulaiman retained the Tenang state seat in the last general election after he defeated Mohd Saim Siran of Pas by a majority of 2,492 votes.

BN won 50 of the state assembly seats, while four went to DAP and two to PAS.

The Tenang state seat is situated within the Labis parliamentary constituency, a stronghold of MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek and currently represented by his son Chua Tee Yong.

Speculation of another by-election was swirling following Sulaiman's long absence from the state assembly's entire budget sitting last month.

This will be Johor's first by-election since GE 2008. Pakatan Rakyat parties have won eight of the 13 by-elections.

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