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# Friends and foes pay last respects to Tok Guru

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**PETALING JAYA:** Friends and political foes came together to pay their respects and extend their condolences to former Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's family following his death due to cancer.

Upon hearing of Nik Aziz's death, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who was making a speech, halted midway to offer prayers for the PAS spiritual leader.

Najib was addressing the crowd at the Cheras Education Foundation's 15th anniversary at Berjaya Times Square Hotel in Kuala Lumpur last night when Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor went up on stage to speak to him.

Najib then announced to all present that Nik Aziz had passed away and invited the crowd to join him in saying Al-Fatihah prayers.

"May Nik Aziz's soul be blessed and placed among those who are pious and noble," he said before reciting the prayers as others in the audience joined him.

MCA president and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the country had lost a respected leader.

Liow's deputy Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong also offered his deepest condolences to Nik Aziz's family.

DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang said that Nik Aziz's passing was a great loss to the nation.



**Final farewell:** Family and friends gathering at the PAS spiritual leader's house in Kelantan to pay their last respects.

"Deepest condolences to the bereaved family. RIP. Al-Fatihah," he said.

PAS deputy president Mohamed Sabu said the party had lost a great leader.

"More importantly, Malaysians have lost a person who was an exemplary leader, who did not use his position for personal gains, but who led the people towards betterment," he said.

## Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat

A humble man, he lived in his own house and never moved to an official residence although he led PAS to wrest control of Kelantan in 1990 and became Menteri Besar.



- > Born Jan 10, 1931 in Pulau Melaka, Kelantan. His father was Nik Mat Raja Banjar also known as Tok Kura.
- > Second among five siblings
- > Able to converse in Arabic, English, Tamil and Urdu in addition to his native Malay language.
- > Joined PAS in 1967.
- > Ulama, former Kelantan Menteri Besar and Spiritual Leader of PAS. He succeeded Yusof Rawa as spiritual leader of PAS in 1991.
- > Married to Tuan Sabariah Tuan Ishak, has 10 children; among them Pasir Mas MP Nik Mohamad Abduh.
- > Studied Islam in Pondok schools, furthered his studies at Darul Uloom Deoband in Uttar Pradesh, India.
- > Obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Arabic Studies and Master of Arts in Islamic jurisprudence from Al-Azhar University, Egypt.
- > Helmed Kelantan government for 23 years and was Chempaka assemblyman. Retired as Menteri Besar in 2013 and was replaced by Datuk Ahmad Yakob.
- > Defended Chempaka seat in 2013 general election, beating BN's Wan Razman Wan Abd Razak by 6,500 votes.