

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	13 FEB 2015

Pas spiritual adviser dies

LONG ILLNESS:
Leaders, well-wishers
fill Nik Aziz's home

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FORMER Kelantan menteri besar and Pas spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat died at his home in Pulau Melaka here at 9.40pm yesterday. He was 84.

He had been battling prostate cancer for several years, and on Jan 19, was admitted to Universiti Sains Malaysia Hospital. His family had told the media that he did not want to undergo chemotherapy to treat his stage-four prostate cancer, and was, instead, taking prescribed medicines.

His health had deteriorated in December last year when major Aoods hit Kelantan. However, it was learnt that his condition took a turn for the worse on Wednesday.

At 8.40pm yesterday, Nik Aziz, who was Chempaka state assemblyman, was taken via ambulance to his family home. He died about an hour later, with family members at his side.

His death was confirmed by his son, Pasir Mas member of parliament Nik Mohamad Abduh Nik Abdul Aziz, at 10.15pm.

Nik Abduh said *solat jenazah* would be held at 10am at the Pulau Melaka mosque, before Nik Aziz's remains were buried at the

village cemetery.

News of his death was widely circulated on social media last night. Huge crowds began making their way to Nik Aziz's home, congesting the roads to Pulau Melaka. Police were out in full force to handle traffic.

A sombre mood enveloped Nik Aziz's family home, which was filled with well-wishers, including Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob, and senior Pas leaders, such as vice-president Datuk Husam Musa and secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali.

Nik Aziz's death was mourned across the political spectrum, as leaders posted condolence messages on social media.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin expressed his sadness over the passing, and extended his condolences to Nik Aziz's family.

"With deep sadness, I offer my condolences to the family of *Al-lahyarham* Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

"May his soul be placed among the pious. *Al-Fatihah*," he posted.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir expressed condolences on behalf of the people of Kedah, and prayed for Nik Aziz to be blessed in the afterlife.

Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Razif Abd Rahman said Nik Aziz's death was a loss for the political scene.

PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said Nik Aziz's contribution towards the Islamic cause was immense, and offered her condolences to his family and

Pas. Additional reporting by Rahmat Khairulrijal



The crowd building up at the late Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's house in Pulau Melaka, Kota Baru, last night. Pic by Fathil Asri

PM tweets condolences

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday expressed his condolences over the death of Pas spiritual leader and former Kelantan menteri besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

He wrote on Twitter: "*Innallihitwainnailahirajun. I am saddened to hear that Tok Guru Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat has passed. Al-Fatihah.*"

He was attending the 15th Cheras Education Foundation anniversary celebration at Berjaya

Times Square Hotel here when he was informed of the news.

Najib, who was delivering a speech, was interrupted by Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, who whispered the news to him.

He paused his speech to inform attendees of the news, before calling on them to recite *doa* for Nik Aziz.

It is learnt that Najib will leave for Kota Baru this morning to attend the funeral.

Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat



Born: Jan 10, 1931

Age: 84

Place of Birth: Pulau Melaka, Kota Baru, Kelantan

Spouse: Tuan Sabariah Tuan Ishak

Children: 10

Education:

Deobond University in India – 1952
Lahore, Pakistan – 1957
Al-Azhar University in Egypt –
Bachelor of Arts in Arabic Studies
and Master of Arts in Islamic
Jurisprudence
Languages spoken – Bahasa Malaysia,
English, Tamil, Urdu and Arabic

Work:

Teacher at SM Agama Tarbiyyah
Mardiah in Panchor
Teacher at SM Agama Darul Anwar
in Pulau Melaka
Adult class supervisor at Kemas
Teacher at SM Maahad Muhammadiyah
in Kota Baru

Politics:

1967 – Registers as Pas member
1967-1969 – Kelantan Hilir MP
1969-1974 – Kelantan Hilir MP
1974-1978 – Kelantan Hilir MP
(Renamed as Pengkalan Chepa)
1978-1982 – Pengkalan Chepa MP
1982-1986 – Pengkalan Chepa MP
1986-1990 – Semut Api state
assemblyman
1990-2013 – Kelantan menteri besar