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Leaders pay tribute to Nik Aziz

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KUALA LUMPUR: The late Pas spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat was a politician who commanded the respect of many Umno leaders despite differing political views, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin described Nik Aziz's death as a great loss to the country and that many Umno leaders looked up to him on several issues.

"We are truly saddened by his death," said Muhyiddin when met after an event at the Bau Civic Centre, yesterday.

Muhyiddin, who is also Umno deputy president, offered his sympathies to the bereaved family.

Other Barisan Nasional leaders also offered their condolences to Nik Aziz's family.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also home minister, prayed for Nik Aziz's soul to be blessed, while Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said he respected Nik Aziz and was saddened by the loss.

"His death reminds me of our own mortality. All of us are going to face

death one day," Hishammuddin said at the National Service Training programme transformation lab in Putrajaya yesterday.

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil also expressed her condolences to Nik Aziz's family on behalf of the wing and Wanita Barisan Nasional.

Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin said Nik Aziz's death had left a void in the nation.

"He has the respect of many youths, including myself. We extend our condolences to his family."

Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Ahmad Shabery Cheek described Nik Aziz as a good leader who had a large following.

"His humility and perseverance made him stand apart. It is indeed a great loss for Pas, as Nik Aziz was one of its most charismatic leaders," said the Communications and Multimedia Minister.

MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai tweeted: "My condolences to the family of YB Tn Guru Dato Nik Aziz on his passing."

"The nation has lost a leader who

was most respected."

DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang expressed his message through Twitter and said: "Tuan Guru Nik Aziz Nik Mat's passing a great loss to nation. Deepest condolence to bereaved family. RIP."

Selangor Menteri Besar Azmin Ali, who is also PKR deputy president, posted a picture of him and Nik Aziz on Twitter.

"He taught me a lot and gave me advice. *Al-Fatihah* to the late Tuan Guru Nik Abdul Aziz #throwback #2013," said Azmin.