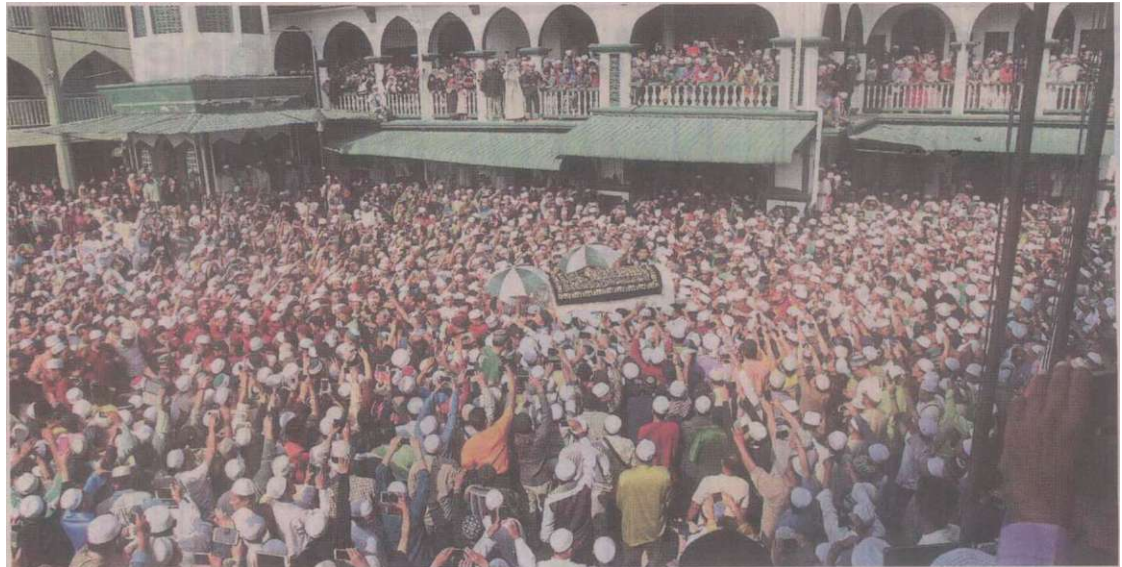


Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	14 FEB 2015

Massive: A huge crowd turned up to attend Nik Aziz's tural at 'Kampung Pulau Melaka in Kota Baru.



Ex-Kelantan MB laid to rest

Tens of thousands line up to pay last respects to Nik Aziz

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KOTA BARU: Tens of thousands of people lined up for kilometres around the house of the late Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat to pay their last respects to the revered *ulama* at his home in Kampung Pulau Melaka here.

However, only a small number of them managed to see the remains of the former Kelantan Menteri Besar before he was buried at 11.30am yesterday. He was buried next to the grave of his father Nik Mat Raja Banjar who passed away some 40 years ago.

The media was politely told not to take photographs of Nik Aziz's remains placed at Masjid Pulau Melaka after the ruckus that took place when many rushed to take photographs of the PAS spiritual leader who died on Thursday night.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was among those who joined the thousands to pray during the funeral rites at the mosque, situated beside Nik Aziz's house - the place he was born 84 years ago. The prayers were led by PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

Among notable politicians who attended the tural were Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang, PAS' Dr Hatta Ramli and Dzulkefly Ahmad, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob and his deputy Datuk Mohd Amar Abdullah.

The atmosphere was sombre and quiet during the prayers and many women were seen crying quietly after the prayers were over.

As the temporary casket was carried by pall



Sombre: Najib was among those who came to pay their last respects to Nik Aziz at Kampung Pulau Melaka in Kota Baru.

bearers towards the Kampung Pulau Melaka Muslim cemetery, about 600m from Nik Aziz's home, people started shouting "AllahuAkbar" (God is great).

Those who tuned up to pay their last respects lined up along the path right up to the burial ground. Many reached out to touch the burial shroud.

Shouts of "AllahuAkbar" also rang out after the final funeral rites were carried out by Abdul Hadi and Nik Aziz's remains were interred at the graveyard on the banks of Sungai Pulau Melaka.

With the fine weather, the whole process took less than an hour despite the huge crowd. His funeral was aired live by RTM and Astro Awani.

At 9pm on Thursday, Nik Aziz was moved back to his home at the request of his family members from his hospital bed at Universiti Sains Malaysia in Kubang Kerian where he had been hospitalised for about a month for fourth-stage prostate cancer.

Forty minutes later, Nik Aziz died in the presence of his wife Datin Tuan Sabariah Tuan Ishak, his 10 children and grandchildren.