

In Kelantan, Husam slips further down the chain
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 — Once tipped to replace Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat as Kelantan menteri besar, PAS vice president Datuk Husam Musa has fallen further down the pecking order after he was not picked as part of the Kelantan executive council today.

Earlier today, PAS named Datuk Ahmad Yakcop as successor for the outgoing Nik Aziz, who is leaving the post he had held since 1990 due to advanced age. Ahmad Yakcop was sworn in before the Sultan of Kelantan this evening, along with Datuk Nik Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah as deputy MB.

Yesterday, the long-serving PAS spiritual adviser led his team through yet another successful general election last night, which saw Pakatan Rakyat (PR) retaining power over Kelantan with 32 of the 45 state seats up for grabs.

The latest omission will prove a further blow for Husam, who also lost his bid in the Putrajaya federal seat in Election 2013, although he managed to win the Salor state seat in Kelantan.

Husam's defeat, together with those of PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu and research director Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad was seen as a blow for party's reformist faction, which had made headway in softening the party's conservative image.

Despite their popularity within and beyond the party, all three lost in their race to be in the country's Parliament for the next five years, which analysts say may affect PAS's future.

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