

**Azizan Abdul Razak, First Non-Umno Kedah Menteri Besar  
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ALOR SETAR, Sept 26 (Bernama) -- Former Kedah Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak, who passed away at the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital here at 11.05 this morning, holds the honour of being the first and only non-Umno leader to head the state administration since independence in 1957.

When the PAS led opposition coalition gained Kedah during the 12th general election in 2008 it resulted in the appointment of the state's first ever PAS leader.

He introduced the slogan 'Kedah Prospers, Benefits for All' to bring about changes in the state administration.

He was also known as a leader who was determined in carrying out his responsibility despite some of his decisions having been in conflict with the party's central level policies.

Azizan, 69, had on several occasions ignored decisions made by the PAS or the Pakatan Rakyat's highest leadership.

Describing his actions as based on the 'the Kedah way', he pointed out that the situation in Kedah was not the same as in Kelantan even though they were both administered by the same party.

He also flatly refused to fully adhere to the "Orange Book" which spelled out Pakatan's policies because as far as he was concerned it was not the Quran which was to be complied with at all times.

Among the issues was the Universities and University Colleges Act prior to its repeal by the Barisan Nasional government. The opposition coalition disagreed with the act but a few of Azizan's actions at the state-owned Kolej Universiti Insaniah, were seen as being in line with it.

He was also not afraid of having differing views from the opposition coalition or even BN if he felt it was for the good of the state and its people.

A law graduate with degrees from the Al-Azhar University (Syariah) in Egypt and the University of Kent, United Kingdom, he was well respected by Umno and BN leaders for labeling the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister as 'my boss' when it came to the law.

Frequently criticised by opposition leaders for supporting or attending federal government programmes, he felt it was not wrong to support such programmes regardless of the organisers as long as they were beneficial to the people.

His stint as the Sungai Limau state assemblyman since 1995 proved his influence in the constituency when he defeated his cousin Fazillah Mohd Ali of BN by a majority of 2,774 votes in the 13th general election.

Labeled as 'fierce' by politicians in general as well as within PAS, he was a completely different person when facing the public or media.

Azizan did not mind criticism of his administration by the media provided it was based on facts and in fact was even grateful for such feedback.

Before entering politics, he was a tutor at Maktab Mahmud here and was once the head of Syariah Department at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

He joined PAS in 1978 and became Kedah PAS secretary between 1995 and 1999 before holding the post of Kedah PAS commissioner in 2000.

In July 2011, he was admitted to the National Heart Centre in Kuala Lumpur for chest pains where doctors discovered that one of his coronary arteries was blocked. He previously underwent a coronary by-pass in 2004.

On May 6, Azizan was admitted to the Kedah Medical Centre for swelling in the legs and transferred to the Penang Hospital's Intensive Care Unit the following day where both his legs had to be amputated due to diabetic complications.

After three months of treatment at the Penang Hospital, he was finally transferred back to the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital here on Aug 14 and took the oath as Sungai Limau state assemblyman.

His condition deteriorated last night due to serious heart complications and he passed away at 11.05 this morning.

Azizan received the Darjah Panglima Setia Mahkota (PSM) which carries the title of "Tan Sri" in conjunction with the birthday of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah on June 1.

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