

Ahmad Zahid's daughter appointed to UPM BoD

DATUK Nurul Hidayah Ahmad Zahid, the daughter of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, was recently appointed to the board of directors of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), of which she is an alumnus. The appointment letter was reportedly signed by Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir.

News reports had the appointment letter as stating, "We are pleased to appoint Datuk (Nurul Hidayah) as a member of the board of UPM, representing a composition of knowledgeable and experienced individuals in accordance with Section 18(1) of UPM's Constitution, for a period of three years effective from Jan 2, 2025 to Jan 1, 2028. We are confident that Datuk is capable of contributing and leading UPM towards achieving greater academic and organisational progress, in line with the government's goal of making Malaysia a centre of regional and international educational excellence."

Nurul Hidayah, 46, is a Wanita Umno executive committee member, as well as the non-executive chairman of MQ Technology Bhd (KL:MQTECH), a company which has suffered eight straight quarters of losses. She is also the executive director of privately-held Menara Rezeki Sdn Bhd. She has been a talk show host, a vice-president of corporate communication, an events consultant and a public relations executive, among others.

Still, one questions the appointment criteria to the boards of public universities. Surely, there are more qualified candidates who have more experience and achieved greater heights than Nurul Hidayah? Perhaps there should be some justification to her appointment. – The Edge