

Ex-UPM vice-chancellor dies

Dad succumbed to liver failure due to cancer, says son

By **KAREN CHAPMAN**
educate@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Former Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Radin Umar Radin Sohadi (*pic*) has died. He was 53.

His son Mundzir Radin Umar said Dr Radin Umar was diagnosed with colon cancer in February 2010, which then spread and affected his liver.

He died of liver failure at 4.15am yesterday morning.

Dr Radin Umar, who previously served as director-general of both the Higher Education Department and the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research, stepped down as UPM vice-chancellor in December 2012.

He leaves behind his wife Datin Norsham Ahmad, five children and four grandchildren.

Johor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin described Dr Radin Umar's death as a great loss to the country.

"He was the ministry's driving force.

"He developed and implemented several strategies including the National Higher Education Strategic Plan," said Mohamed Khaled, who was previously higher education minister.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia vice-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dr Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin said Dr Radin Umar knew how to bring out the best in everyone to realise the objectives of the higher education strategic plan.

UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan said the university had lost a great friend, leader and mentor.

Taylor's University vice-chancellor and president Prof Datuk Dr Hassan Said, who had known Dr Radin Umar for many years, said he had strengthened Malaysia as a higher education hub.

"He created the instrument to assess students' soft skills for graduate employability that was eventually implemented at all public universities," he said.

Education Ministry deputy director-general (Public Universities) Datin Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said he continued contributing ideas although he was undergoing treatment in the hospital.



'Passing of a road safety hero' >pg 40