

# Passing of a road safety hero Radin Umar

THE road safety community mourns the passing of a great advocate and champion of road safety, Datuk Ir Radin Umar Radin Sohadi (pic), who passed away at 4.15am, yesterday.

Known globally for his efforts in road safety, Radin Umar was the person who introduced the first exclusive motorcycle lane in the country and the world, an action that has managed to reduce motorcycle crashes and casualties drastically.

Radin Umar was also instrumental in championing the integrated intervention approach in 1997, which was able to deflect our road safety performance for the better.

His dream to establish a dedicated research institute for road safety was realised with the establishment of the Malaysian Institute of

Road Safety Research (Miros) on Jan 3, 2007. He was also the first director-general of Miros, which was first of its kind then.

His struggle continued to the end, where his courage and determination to fight his colon cancer diagnosed in 2010 was exemplified by his appointment as the director general of Higher Education and the Vice Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia during his battle with cancer.

Through Miros, Radin Umar continued to initiate new ideas and initiatives to search for that second deflection in the nation's road safety record, first achieved in



1997 and was primarily attributed to his resolve.

Among his biggest achievements at Miros was the institutionalisation of the accident investigation procedures and the inquiries to be carried out by relevant authorities.

Both were intended to provide answers to the contributing factors and to provide leads for intervention to prevent similar crashes from recurring.

Another big contribution by Radin Umar was the inclusion of the road safety education syllabus in national primary and secondary school curriculum since 2009.

On vehicle safety, Radin

Umar established a Crash Safety Engineering Unit in Miros which has since evolved into a Provisional Car Crash Centre, and now hosts the Asean NCAP which provides the safety rating for cars in Malaysia and in the Asean region.

For all the tributes that can be given to Radin Umar, there remains a single wish that is unfulfilled up to the time of his passing, and that was the dream that Malaysians will be transformed into safer road users.

Let us all now start to fulfill this great man's wish by beginning to be safer road users and to continue to be road safety advocates. May Radin Umar's soul be blessed by Allah SWT.

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