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## Businessman Wan Adli dies a week after surgery

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Prominent businessman Datuk Wan Adli Wan Ibrahim, 57, died at 3.25pm today at the Pantai Medical Centre. He was admitted to the hospital for a sinus operation last Sunday.

He was in a coma for about one week after the operation. His body was taken to his house in Bangsar before it was flown to Alor Star where he was buried at the Derga Muslim cemetery tonight.

He leaves his wife Datin Roseni Hussain and six children.

Among those who paid their last respects at his house here were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and their children.

Dr Mahathir was later joined by his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Also present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, Malaysia Airlines chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli, Berjaya Group chairman Tan Sri Vincent Tan and other businessmen and associates.

In Alor Star, the body of Wan Adli arrived at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport at 8.45pm. Among those at the airport were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid. Wan Adli's body was taken to his family residence in Jalan Teluk Wan Jah before burial at the Derga Muslim cemetery at 10.45pm.

A late bloomer in the corporate world, Wan Adli held strings of directorships of many listed and unlisted firms and was the Transwater Corporation Bhd executive chairman.

At the height of the water crisis, Transwater Corporation was also involved in helping the Selangor Waterworks Department to produce water from its Aquasource plant.

The plant is capable of producing 10 million litres of mineral quality water a day or 500 cubic metres of water per hour. Transwater Corporation Bhd also lent its Ultrasource unit, which is a smaller version of the membrane technology plant, to overcome water shortage in the Klang Valley.

The unit, which is the size of a container, can produce enough water for 1,000 families daily and can filter 20,000 litres of water per hour.

Wan Adli started his career as a mathematician in 1963 after graduating from Dublin University and went on to study actuarial science at the Phoenix Assurance company in London.

On his return three years later, he joined the actuarial division in the Prime Minister's Department and lectured in mathematics and actuarial science at Institut Teknologi Mara.

In 1968, he joined Lembaga Urusan dan Tabung Haji as general manager and was promoted to director of finance and later director of welfare.

He served Tabung Haji for six years before taking up the post of director of economic planning and budgeting at the Rubber Industry Smallholders' Development Authority in 1974.

He was with Risda for six years, serving the statutory body in various capacities. His last appointment in Risda was as deputy director-general. In 1980, Wan Adli left the civil service and joined Sobri Holdings Sdn Bhd, an investment holdings company involved mainly in property development, as managing director.

Nine years later, he was appointed general manager of Berjaya Corporation (M) Bhd's subsidiary, Kemajuan Gemilang Sdn Bhd.

Since then, Wan Adli became a corporate personality who dealt in

property development and management of resorts and a major player in the utility industry like the supply of water and electricity and treatment of sewerage systems.

Besides Transwater, Wan Adli had a 20 per cent stake in another second board company, Bridgecon Bhd, and was on the board of Berjaya Group Bhd as its group executive director.

He was also on the boards of several other listed companies like Diperdana Corporation Bhd and Unza Holdings Bhd.

Besides the corporate world, Wan Adli, who had a passion for horses (he was Dr Mahathir's regular riding partner), was active in sports associations and was the vice-president of the Equestrian Association of Malaysia, the treasurer of the Badminton Association of Malaysia and the Kuala Lumpur Football Association.

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