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Prominent businessman Wan Adli dies

PROMINENT corporate leader Datuk Wan Adli Wan Ibrahim, 57, passed away at the Pantai Medical Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after a week-long coma that followed an operation for sinus complications. He was admitted to the hospital last Sunday.

Wan Adli was the executive chairman of engineering group Transwater Corp Bhd and a director of Bridgecon Holdings Bhd and Mutiara Swisscom Bhd (the holding company of Mutiara Telecommunications).

"The other silverbeard", as some in the business community would call him - a mild reference to high-profile Datuk Amin Shah Omar Shah of Business Focus Sdn Bhd - he had a wide range of experiences in both the Government and the private sector.

He graduated from Dublin University in 1963 with a degree in mathematics and proceeded to read Actuarial Science with Phoenix Assurance Company Ltd in London for three years.

When he returned to Malaysia, Wan Adli 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 the Pilgrims Management and Fund Board (Lembaga Urusan dan Tabung Haji) as the general manager and was promoted to director of finance and later, director of welfare. He was with Tabung Haji for six years.

Wan Adli joined the Rubber Industry Smallholders' Development Authority (Risda) in 1974 as the director of economic planning and budgeting. In his six years there, he was appointed director of various divisions including marketing, administration and personnel, estates, supplies and training, and community development. His final appointment before leaving Risda was deputy director-general.

He then joined Sobri Holdings Sdn Bhd - a holding and investment company - as managing director in 1980. He was involved in property development with this group for nine years.

He joined Berjaya Corp (M) Bhd in October 1989 as general manager of its subsidiary Kemajuan Gemilang Sdn Bhd. He also became Berjaya Group's executive director.

He was also the executive chairman of Indah Water Konsortium before he sold his stake last year.

Among those who paid their last respects at his residence in Bangsar were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Others include Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, Berjaya Group chairman Tan Sri Vincent Tan, Malaysia Airline chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli and other business figures.

He is survived by his wife, Datin Roseni Hussein, and six children.

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