

05 MAY 1998

KTM'S SELVARAJAH DIES

KUALA LUMPUR, May 5 (Bernama) -- The chairman of Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd (KTM), Tan Sri C. Selvarajah, passed away today at 2.25 am, the railway firm announced in a statement here.

He was 70.

Selvarajah, a former senator, died after a short illness at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital here.

Born in Kuantan on Aug 12, 1927, he read law at the Middle Temple in London and practised law here for 30 years after having been called to the Bar in 1960.

Before taking up law, Selvarajah was a medical student at the King Edward VII College of Medicine Class of 1947, for a year.

Best known members of the the Class are Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Selvarajah had held various positions in his lifetime, mostly in the private sector. His tenure at KTM and UMW Holdings Bhd was his most prominent as a corporate leader.

He was chairman of UMW Holdings between 1978 and February 1989.

In October 1989, Selvarajah was appointed chairman of KTM, then known as Malayan Railway before its corporatisation in 1992 and privatisation in 1997. He was retained as chairman of the KTM board after the succesful corporatisation and privatisation exercise.

He was also chairman of Maika Holdings in 1990 and chairman of Time Engineering.

According to his close friend, former Court of Appeal judge, Datuk V.C. George, Selvarajah's dream was to have high speed train service between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. "He has had that dream since 15 years ago," he added.

Speaking to reporters at Selvarajah's residence in Petaling Jaya, George said Selvarajah was also a keen sportsman and was a fan of Arsenal Football Club which won the English Premier League this year. "A few week ago, Tan Sri was planning to go and watch Arsenal play," he added.

KTM's exco chairman, Che Khalib Mohd Noh described Selvarajah's death as a big loss to KTM. Despite suffering from a stroke more than six months ago, he participated actively in KTM Board meetings, he added.

Selvarajah is survived by a 25-year old daughter.

He will be cremated at 2pm tomorrow at the Petaling Jaya Chinese Crematorium in Kampung Tunku. -- BERNAMA

MR/MSL SHY FR