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Othman-Contributions

OTHMAN YEOP LAID TO REST AT KIARA MUSLIM CEMETERY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- Former Executive Chairman of the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, who died yesterday, was laid to rest at the Kiara Muslim Cemetery here this morning.

About 100 family members, relatives, friends and colleagues accompanied the hearse to the cemetery.

Dr Othman, 62, died of lung cancer in his house at Bukit Damansara. He was suffering from lung cancer since one-and-a-half years ago.

MDC Chief Executive Officer Datuk Dr Mohamed Arif Nun said the country had lost an intelligent man who was instrumental for the development of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) and MDC into an organisation that could compete at regional level.

"He is among the brains responsible for the development of the MSC and MDC. He was bold in venturing into new ways to achieve the current performance of the MSC and MDC," he told reporters after attending the funeral.

He said the late Dr Othman succeeded in developing MSC to an impressive level within seven years.

"His death is a big loss because when we started in 1996, there were only two or three people and we started from zero. Now, we can see the performance of the MSC in seven years," he said.

Former Director-General of the Road Transport Department (JPJ) Datuk Pahamin Rajab, who was a former colleague of Dr Othman in government, said the country's current advancement of Information Technology (IT) to a certain extent could be attributed to Dr Othman who was responsible for the implementation of the MSC project.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the man who mooted the idea to develop the MSC and Dr Othman was responsible for the setting up of the MSC.

"He has high academic qualifications. Even during his leave, he worked full-time at the MDC," said Pahamin, who is now Air Asia Chairman.

He said the country still needed Dr Othman's expertise to further develop the MSC.

"If he has not fallen ill, I think he can still offer his services for another 10 years because he is a very able man," he said.

Dr Othman is survived by his wife Puan Sri Siti Zubaidah Zakaria and three daughters -- Siti Zuhaini, 34, Siti Zurhana, 32, and Siti Zurina, 25.

-- BERNAMA

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