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Megat Junid dies of cancer

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PETALING JAYA: Former domestic trade and consumer affairs minister Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayub succumbed to prostate cancer at 5.30am yesterday. He was 65.

He was also suffering from secondary cancer of the lungs and kidney failure.

Pantai Medical Centre, where Megat Junid sought treatment, said he had been battling the cancer since it reappeared last November.

His condition started to weaken this month, the hospi-

tal said in a statement issued yesterday.

He is survived by his two wives, Puan Sri Faizah Shuaib and Norzilah Jalil, and their five children.

Megat Junid's third son, Megat Firdouz, 38, said his father had been in and out of the intensive care unit four times since his admission on Nov 19.

"He was constantly in pain and had to be put on various painkillers. He died in his sleep. We are grateful that he had a peaceful death."

Megat Firdouz described his father as a joyful person who always cracked jokes during meals.

"We will really miss our

Monday dinners with him," he said, referring to a family tradition which started in 1995. The dinners were attended by Megat Junid's wives, children and 13 grandchildren.

Megat Junid's first wife, Puan Sri Faizah Shuaib appeared composed, but his second wife, Norzilah Jalil, and daughter Putri Julia Nabila were too distraught to speak to reporters.

Born in Teluk Intan, Perak, Megat Junid had an illustrious career in politics, which took off with his stint as special assistant to the then education minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed in 1975.

He later became Dr Ma-

hathir's political secretary during the latter's tenure as education minister and deputy prime minister.

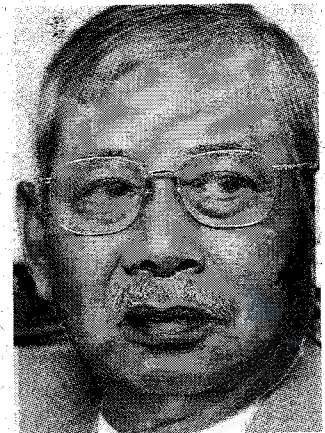
His last cabinet post was as domestic trade and consumer affairs minister from 1997 to 1999.

He became an Umno supreme council member in 1987 and was made Umno information chief in 2002.

Megat Junid was chairman of Stemlife Berhad until May last year.

He was also president of the Kuala Lumpur Football Association.

He was buried at the Bukit Kiara Muslim Cemetery after zohor prayers yesterday.



Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayub had an illustrious career in politics