

# WHO'S THE NEXT TUN ARSHAD AYUB?

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FOR the longest time, we have been searching for another lethal striker like Datuk Mokhtar Dahari, another genius filmmaker like Tan Sri P. Ramlee and another outstanding civil servant like Tun Mohamed Ismail Ali.

They were the best in their fields and had always put the country first.

Deepest condolences to the family of Tun Arshad Ayub. He was an educator extraordinaire, a dedicated civil servant and a disciplinarian.

He came from a modest rub-

ber tapper family. Even with few resources in the 1960s, his dedication and hardwork transformed the Mara College of Business and Professional Studies into Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), and the institution has now produced 800,000 graduates.

If there is an average of five people in a family, then more than four million people have been able to share and enjoy the fruits of his labour.

He could not only think outside the box, he proved it by introducing twinning programmes.

He taught students discipline. A friend of mine went to a dining hall on campus in Shah Alam wearing slippers and was asked to wear shoes.

Though a disciplinarian, he understood our feelings as teenagers and allowed us to grow our hair long. He was a really good father figure to us.

In UiTM, he leaves behind a permanent legacy for us to improve on.

UiTM has produced many prize-winners and top students and I trust there are concrete plans to produce more.

I am happy that UiTM now has a 2025 Strategic Plan to internationalise staff, as well as student mobility programmes.

During Arshad's tenure, 95 per cent of lecturers were non-Malays, including foreigners from Sri Lanka, and their commitment to students was absolute.

We need to change from being fence-sitters to movers, become part of the solution and pass that on.

Is there political will? Will somebody rise to the occasion?

People who can and are willing

to contribute cannot be suppressed for long.

A great man is a torch in the darkness, a beacon in the night and an inspiration. Great men do not play tricks with life and death — only weak men do that.

So will we see another another Arshad in the not too distant future?

That is the hope, as we also wait for the next Mokhtar Dahari, P. Ramlee and Ismail Ali.

**SALEH MOHAMMED**

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