

A LIFE STORY OF  
EMERITUS PROFESSOR DR. KT JOSEPH



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# KT JOSEPH

MALAYSIAN AT HEART

ABU BAKAR HAMID

HASHIM YAACOB

AZIZAH HAMZAH



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## **KT JOSEPH: A Malaysian at Heart**

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# KT JOSEPH

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A MALAYSIAN AT HEART

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Abu Bakar Hamid    Hashim Yaacob    Azizah Hamzah

PUSTAKA PERDANA



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## Foreword

**Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Arshad Ayub**

I was happy to receive a request to write a Foreword for *A Malaysian at Heart: A Life Story of Emeritus Professor KT Joseph*. These biographical essays on Emeritus Professor KT Joseph is very timely and is an excellent tribute to the scholar and a friend. I had known him since our much younger days at the University of Malaya in Singapore and later on during our days in the Ministry of Agriculture. My impression of KT Joseph is of a learned scientist who successfully bridged the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences with the Sciences especially with the subjects of his specialization such as Geology, Agricultural and Soil Sciences, and Geography.

The editors have assembled a remarkable book covering several sides of the scholar. Read the chapters and feel the respect and admiration for him from his

colleagues and love from his family. Catch glimpses of a man who always tried, and at times was able to take the bull by its horns or, as Professor Emeritus Datuk Abu Bakar Hamid described, a fearless but God-fearing man, or in the words of Dato' Professor Hashim Yaacob, a man who called a spade a spade. This spirit of testing the waters and frontiers may also be seen in the Chapter by Professor Azizah who wrote that his favorite declaration was that he was not afraid to pursue certain matters all the way to the top because he already had one foot in the grave. Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Khoo Kay Kim provided a side of KT Joseph as a young man and his ideals and how he fought for his beliefs. The three editors of this collection became his close confidantes and thus were able to capture his true nature as a learned scholar, his *savoir faire*, as well as his anguish at certain issues pertaining to his struggles to make sense of what was happening in academia, in higher education and his love, the University of Malaya. To his last day he was engaged in efforts to push University of Malaya to attain the standards that he aspired to and he was forever ready to discuss or argue if necessary, for his ideals in academia.

The formative years of KT are very aptly captured by Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., the first American serving as a visiting lecturer in economics in the University as well as the representative for the John D. Rockefeller non-profit organization promoting agricultural development in the

Southeast Asian region. Wharton saw KT's determination and dedication towards developing the young Faculty of Agriculture and in the process, Dr. Wharton and KT formed a lasting bond of friendship. Dr. Wharton later went on to become President Emeritus, Michigan State University and was later appointed as U.S. Deputy Secretary of State.

The essays in the book were written as a series of successive writings on UM and its illustrious leaders and notables. The members of the editorial team had published a number of books, such as *Bingkisan Media: Wacana Kenangan untuk Profesor Datuk Abu Bakar Hamid (2008)*, *Glimpses of the Past : University of Malaya at Pantai Valley, (2009)*, *Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz: The Renaissance Man, (2010)* and *Hashim Yaacob: Mestika Embun Insan Seribu Upaya (2013)*.

Reading this collection of essays bring us closer to the man. Sheila penned her innermost thoughts about a spouse as only a spouse is able to do, giving us a picture of an honourable and ethical man. Ahmad Husni, who is also the Publisher of the book reminisced about a kind-hearted friend ready to assist whenever he could with no expectations of reward other than a desire to help. The pages show a man of deep convictions as well as a compassionate human being who had the best intentions at heart. It also painted an academic with so much pride and love for UM although his formative years as a scholar were

formed during his student days in Australia. KT was also a master of the English language and his wit was especially appreciated by his friends as in the piece written by Amrita Mukerji. Chew Poh Soon and Francis Morsingh also recalled the scientific contributions to the agricultural and palm oil industry of Malaysia. In remembering their father, Rahel and J K Joseph talked about the strong impact he had on them, his many blessings and the empty space he has left in their lives.

As his friend and also as Chairman of University of Malaya's Board of Directors, I truly empathized with him, for I too have grappled and groped in a quest to achieve a state-of-the art University, achieving world class quality as a higher education provider and becoming a beacon of light and hope for the future of Malaysia's higher education. KT's fight shall go on as long as we all converge in our quest for excellence, clinching a place among the top universities of the world.





## Remembering a Friend

Abu Bakar Hamid

### Early friendship

As far as I can remember, I was never formally introduced to Professor KT Joseph but I would often catch him with a group of lecturers from the English Department such as the late Professor Lim Chee Seng, Fadzilah Amin and Margaret Jit. One day I made my way to the group and we started to introduce ourselves. I would say that for someone whom I befriended in a most casual manner, our encounter led to the beginning of a most meaningful and lasting friendship. KT turned out to be one of my most dear and closest friends. At that time he was teaching at the Department of Geography and I was with the Department of Malay Studies. Judging from our conversations in our meetings later, it was obvious that KT was extremely proud

of his Department. He used to be attached to the Faculty of Agriculture and in his view, the academic quality of the Faculty of Agriculture was, without any doubt, the best and graduates of the faculty were highly regarded by the government and industry. As far as my memory takes me, other members of the group in the Senior Common Room included Tan Sri Khoo Kay Kim, Muhammad Kamlin and also the late Professor Krishen Jit from the Department of History.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has a Senior Common Room (fashioned in the traditions of the British universities), a meeting place where the academic staff would take a breather in between classes and have their meals. Being educated in the traditions of Australian and English universities, KT would immediately correct anyone who referred to the room as the Faculty canteen! According to him, even tutors are not allowed in unless by invitation. One of the signature foods served was the curry puff and since the caterer's name was Bacha, it became known as curry puff Bacha at canteen Bacha. The students would buy this scrumptious Bacha pastry and consider it as a real treat because it was rather expensive even back then.

We later became lunch buddies. For many of our friends, the fact that we became close friends was rather odd because they assumed that there was not much similarity between the Sciences and the Arts

and between a Malay and an Indian. Quite a number of Faculty members were curious about what we talked about. Actually, between the two of us, nothing was taboo. We talked about everything and each of us had our own personal opinions on many subjects. As for me, KT was my sounding board, a person for me to test my thinking, be it about politics, culture, ethnic relations or sport. When I was a columnist for the ERA magazine, KT would be the first to know about my content, again a place to pre-test my views on certain topics. A meeting of minds. For a long while, he became my sounding board whenever I had to write or deliver a talk. He was ever ready to give his sincere opinions and with a sense of responsibility. Not many people like a person who is critical. But I feel that as you grow older and hold the post of Professor, not many people are willing to say that our thinking is quite different from others. It is in this respect that I found KT a most sincere friend and was always ready to help. I appreciated his opinion, especially views and perspectives from the mind of a non-Malay.

## **Favorite hunting ground: Lake Club**

Both of us preferred to go to Lake Club because there is ample parking area, many choices for food at the Buttery and pool side. At the Bunga Raya the prices are a bit higher and at the Western Food restaurant the ambience is a bit classier. Many of those who noticed our close friendship were genuinely curious as to what could be our common ground, especially what our particular similarities were, apart from being fellow academics. At all occasions, our answer would always be the same: We are liberal thinkers and we could talk about almost anything without any argument. There was an occasion where someone asked if we could discuss *Perfume Garden*? I replied yes but I needed to borrow the book for I have not read it.

After serving in the Faculty of Agriculture, UM, naturally KT (as most others too) did not regard University of Agriculture Malaysia (UPM) as highly. It was formerly established as a College of Agriculture and School of Agriculture which excelled at providing the agricultural work force. They were more hands-on. After the upgrade to University status, their staff were sent abroad to pursue their Masters and PhDs at less impressive and lower quality universities. When a number of staff who returned from better institutions were denied admission, KT attributed this situation to the old

saying of the tyranny of the majority. He noticed that the majority from less qualified universities had denied the better qualified staff entrance into UPM. He served UPM for two years and when he was offered an extension he declined and instead began to work at Terra-Control Technologies, a private sector firm.

### **An avid letter writer**

Deep inside his being, KT was such a caring person and he would not let go of any opportunity to help his fellow man. When he heard about a move to employ English language teachers from India, he immediately wrote to the then Minister of Education, the current Prime Minister YAB Dato' Seri Mohamad Najib to also consider employing the Indians to teach Mathematics as well in the rural schools. Such ideas are welcomed and he had a response, reproduced below, but sadly, it did not materialize.



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Tarikh : 25 Ogos 1995

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Terra-Control Technologies Sdn. Bhd.  
Letter Box #12 18th. Floor  
Menara Tun Razak  
Jalan Raja Laut  
**50350 KUALA LUMPUR**

*Panda Pa,*

Saya mengucapkan terima kasih di atas surat saudara bertarikh 21 Ogos 1995 yang menyampaikan cadangan supaya guru-guru dari India dilantik sebagai guru-guru untuk mengajar matematik di sekolah-sekolah rendah dan menengah Kerajaan.

2. Kementerian Pendidikan akan mengkaji syor ini dengan sebaik mungkin. Walaupun beberapa usaha telah dilakukan untuk mempertingkatkan pencapaian dalam bidang matematik, Kementerian masih bersikap terbuka untuk menerima apa jua pandangan dan cadangan bagi mempertingkatkan lagi pencapaian dan prestasi murid-murid dalam bidang matematik.

Di atas minat saudara dalam hal ini saya mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi terima kasih.

*Angka dkk.*

( DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB )

Being brought up by educated parents in a comfortable household, KT was painfully aware of the plight of the Indians in the estates. The state of Tamil schools were also at the centre of his consciousness, he realized the dire need to transform Tamil education and the one immediate way he could think of was to abolish vernacular Tamil schools and merge with the national-type schools. Being the eternal pragmatist, he therefore supported the one stream education system with Tamil and Mandarin taught as subjects.

Another of his attempts to help the state of affairs of the Indians was clearly reflected in his letter to the then Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. In this case he wrote to propose that Tun Mahathir consider accepting Party Indian Progressive Front (IPF) under the leadership of the president Mr. M.G. Pandithan into The National Front or the Barisan Nasional, the coalition of the governing parties of the elected Malaysian government. In this letter he raised a few issues plaguing the Indian community, especially Indians from the "lowest strata of society". The contents are a good example of how KT was quick to identify the problems plaguing the Indians and also how quickly he tried to solve the problem. Instead of disenfranchising the Indians further, he went all out to persuade the Malaysian leader to embrace the whole group, reminding the PM that those impoverished rubber tappers had also contributed to Malaysia's wealth and progress.





3-6-2003.

Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad  
Perdana Menteri Malaysia

Yang Amat Berhormat

Lagi sekali izinkan saya mengucapkan tahniah atas segala kejayaan yang telah dicapai oleh YAB khususnya masa'alah berkait dengan MCA yang telah pun diselesaikan baru-baru ini.

Perkara perkara yang dikemukakan untuk pertimbangan jasabaik YAB adalah berkaitan dengan golongan yang miskin

Saya ingin merayu sokongan YAB supaya Parti IPF yang dipimpin oleh Saudara Pandithan dapat diterima oleh Barisan Nasional sebagai ahli Berberapa kali parti IPF telah pun ditolak pada masa duhulu Ulasan saya tentang masa depan orang keterunan India berbunyi seperti berikut dalam Bahasa Inggeris:

The future of the vast majority of Indians who come from the lowest strata of society is linked with Pandithan and the IPF. If Abraham Lincoln's famous phrase "Government of the people by the people for the people" is to have any meaning for the Indian community, then, Pandithan surely must be the answer. He has been completely loyal to the Barisan Nasional despite being left out. As you know without adequate funding it is extremely difficult to run a party effectively. If the party gains admission to the BN, a parliamentary seat in the next elections would be a boost to the party and provide a stimulus to the growing strength of his support. In time he would be the natural leader of the Indian community

Although entry into the BN fold is through consensus, you, sir, could bring this about. Unfortunately, no other person in Malaysia could persuade the detractors. Before you leave the political scene, may I humbly urge you to do this good deed for this extremely disadvantaged group. After all, the humble Tamil rubber tapper laid the foundation for the then Malaya's wealth at a very high personal cost indeed. Many succumbed to Malaria which was rampant in the early days of the development of rubber estates in Malaya

The late Dr K Eapen (Johore Medical Services) who served in Pontian in the mid-twenties described privately in succinct terms the fate of many estate workers then as "having their lives literally sucked out of them as one would suck out a lime"

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These people have gained little from Merdeka. The Jaffna Tamils from Ceylon and middle class Indians like myself have gained much but not the labour class. Many, today, are gangsters and drug addicts due to lack of proper education and opportunities.

The fragmentation of estates at the time of Merdeka and soon after, made matters worse. Apart from the late Tun Sambantham who created the National Land Finance Cooperative Society (which bought over estates due for fragmentation) there has been very little done to alleviate poverty amongst Indians.

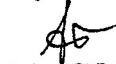
The MIC and especially the PPP will not solve the problems facing this marginalized group

As you may be aware, Pandithan was accused earlier on of playing "caste politics" and subsequently kicked out of the MIC. The political realities, however, in Malaysia necessitate ethnicity and religion (Muslim/Non-Muslim) as major factors in safeguarding group interests. Pandithan was right to champion the cause of the majority.

A merger of the IPF and MIC in the near future with Pandithan as leader is the only hope for the vast majority of Indians in Malaysia, as I see it.

Dengan hormatnya, saya harap pandangan yang dikemukakan dapat diterima dengan murah hati

Yang Ikhlas,



Profesor (B) Dr K T Joseph  
Senior Consultant

*The IPF letter to Tun Mahathir Mohamad*



## Early years at school

KT came from a family line of educators. His father was the headmaster of Bukit Mertajam High School and his mother was also a teacher.

He recalled his school days fondly and remembered it often with such nostalgia. He talked about his first school, Bandar Hilir English School. Every year he managed to clinch the number one spot in class. He remembered being given three cents as pocket money and he used one cent to buy *nasi lemak*, another cent to buy syrup water and the remaining cent to buy ice *kacang*. After four years in primary school, he attended the secondary years at Malacca High School and managed to get express or double promotion. He participated in the debating team of MHS and his team would win repeatedly over the other schools. He spoke of one incident during his school years that made him feel sad and frustrated. It involved his essay writing. From a selection of essay topics given by his teacher, he chose a topic entitled "Trade Union". His teacher was an Englishman called Mr. Miller who scolded him for choosing that topic. And for doing that he was ordered to stand on his chair. The teacher later told his classmates, "Look at this boy carefully. One day he will be a trouble maker." KT was devastated. He actually did not know anything about "trade unions". He chose the topic simply because he had wanted to know more about trade unions!

## The Japanese Occupation

KT had an amazing experience while under Japanese rule. He witnessed the fighting between the Japanese and the British troops when he was visiting Butterworth. The British paid a month's salary for the government officers and later withdrew. The Joseph family escaped to Merlimau but when the Japanese arrived they were ordered to go back to their homes. In Merlimau his uncle, KT Oommen planted ragi (finger millet) which saved the family from the ravages of beri-beri which became rampant during the war.

His father was the secretary of the Rotary Club and he had a Gestetner printing machine at home. When the Japanese invasion was completed, they started to call back the officers serving in the Malayan government service and KT's father was appointed as an Inspector of Schools. His family was rather lucky because Yamamoto, the CEO of Education Services was trained in Harvard and made frequent visits to their house, bringing with him fish and meat supplies. The intellectual Yamamoto loved to discuss many topics including Shakespeare. After occupying the Peninsula for three and a half years, the British returned. The Chinese *Bintang Tiga* took control over many parts and started to seek revenge against those that they suspected had co-operated with the Japanese. The situation became chaotic and they started the cruel revenge killings. These killings were executed right in front of family members.

KT was eight years old then. In July 1943, the Indian nationalist Subhas Chandra Bose came to Singapore from Germany. He reached Melaka and spoke at a rally in Capitol Theatre. He was such a great communicator, and he spoke in English and Hindi which was translated into Tamil. According to KT he saw Indian women rubber tappers surrendering their gold bangles to Bose. The *Balak Sena* was formed and young KT at the age of 11 joined in. In early 1941 KT left for training and later offered to join the *Azad Hind Fauz* training session. He learned to make hand grenades and handle the machine gun. In the afternoons he would attend lectures on security matters, learn how to read maps and various aspects of war.

After training for a period of six months they became ready for war, KT and 11 others were selected to board a submarine enroute to Imphal, India. There they were to be trained to launch sabotage missions. Luckily the war ended and KT was allowed to return home and he began to realize that his mind had been brainwashed by the fiery speeches he listened to. He began to realize that was how children were brainwashed into becoming suicide bombers.

After listening to all his adventures and experiences during the war, I began to understand why KT was so angry with the groups that used the services of the young, or even children to become suicide bombers.

## Unorthodox thinking

It has often been said that KT was an unorthodox person. (But that is precisely what is meant of a person who is unorthodox.) KT was a creative thinker therefore highly original in his interpretation. A good example of such thinking was his opinion about the New Economic Policy (NEP). His critical thinking which put quality before all else was often misinterpreted as a stance which opposed policies of the government, especially those that were related to increasing the number of *Bumiputera* in the professional categories. KT fully supported the NEP but he opposed what he saw as the abuse by the official implementers to manipulate the benefits for interested parties. They hijacked this policy and recruited lower qualified people or totally unqualified people as if there were no other qualified *Bumiputera* or those with potential. When he was in the service of MARDI, he informed the Director that if the policy called for 30 per cent Malay quota, he would increase it by a further 10 per cent more provided he was given the role of the decision-maker and able to do his selection. The Director agreed. Therefore in his own words he had:

“Succeeded to create a record that could not be beaten by all the institutions in the soil area in Malaysia. I was able to get one D.Phil from Oxford,

i.e, Rashid Ahmad; a PhD from London, Mohd Zahari, a PhD from Sydney, Jalaluddin Jipilos; a PhD from Aberdeen, Aminuddin Yusoff, a PhD from Purdue in the area of radiophysics, Aziz Bidin. In the area of soils in University of Agriculture, there is not a single person who is of equal status with the ones I had chosen. In the same area of expertise too there is no *Bumiputera* in the Rubber Research Institute (RRI) who would gain any respect as a soils expert. More than that, there is not a single *Bumiputera*, even in the whole region of Southeast Asia who has a PhD in Soils from Oxford”, (*Dewan Budaya*, Mac, 1988)

### Life in UM: Loving and holding UM high

KT had such a deep love for UM. To him, if UM falls, the whole country falls too. As part of the 1960s generation, KT felt that there was a decline of standards in the new generation of academics in UM. Naturally, the younger generation of UM's academics were not happy with this observation and KT did declare this comparison rather often. He loved to talk about the good old days.

KT was awarded the Colombo Plan Scholar to pursue his BSc Hons at the University of Western Australia and

continued with his M. Ag. Sc. after gaining a Colombo Plan Fellowship at the Waite Agricultural Institute of the University of Adelaide from 1956-1957. He studied under Dr. C.S. Piper, Head of Soil Chemistry CSIRO, Australia. After his Masters, he left for University of Reading U.K. to pursue his PhD under the supervision of E.W. Russell. From such august places he developed his expertise in the optimization of water and land resources in the tropics. One of his major contributions was the submission of table of soil catenas in the tropics to the book, *Tropical soils* by Anthony Young which was published by Cambridge University Press.

### About not rocking the boat

In the University of Malaya, KT was first attached with the Faculty of Agriculture. It was during this period that he again showed his leadership tendencies during an effort to initiate a change in the deanship of the Faculty. Feeling that the Faculty needed a change, he mounted a challenge against the reappointment of Professor McCluskey. However, none of the academic staff were keen to come forward. Forever the troubleshooter, he realized that he had to come forward and thus offered to run so that the election may continue. He had a duty to

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PANTAI VALLEY  
KUALA LUMPUR

SECRET

24th, January 1967.

The Vice-Chancellor,  
The University of Malaya,  
Kuala Lumpur.

Dear Vice-Chancellor,

To the undersigned, declare that in the election for a Dean of Agriculture which was held this morning we voted for Mr. K.T. Joseph. Since we are nine in number and since there were only eight votes declared for Mr. Joseph, we are convinced there has been an error in counting and we request a recount of the votes.

Yours sincerely,

*K.T. Joseph* (K.T. JOSEPH)

*G.F.J. Moir* (G.F.J. MOIR)

*Cheah Kok Kheng* (CHEAH KOK KHEONG)

*Hsu Yu Cho* (HSU YU CHO)

*Anwar bin Mahmud* (ANWAR BIN MAHMUD)

*C.N. Williams* (C.N. WILLIAMS)

*J.H. Ledw* (J.H. LEDW)

*M. Rashdan Bada* (M. RASHDAN BADA)

*Francis Morsingh* (Francis Morsingh)



History For McCluskey

- (1) DS McCluskey
- (2) Irvn Erich
- (3) George Hughes
- (4) Anne Johnson
- (5) Tony Berry
- (6) JH Berry
- (7) Chien Fung Kee (Chairman)

Registrar - Foo Yew Yeh

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### Election fraud

the members of faculty and thus was willing to sacrifice for the common good. It was a close race, seven to eight votes in favor of KT The Acting Registrar then, declared McCluskey the winner. Realizing that he was cheated of the Deanship, the Faculty members wrote a letter to the Vice Chancellor, claiming that there was an error in counting and requested a recount.

When KT was appointed Head of Department of Geography (1982-1987), he was advised by well-meaning friends to lead the department without rocking the boat. However, being a man with a strong sense of fairness and high academic expectations, KT did just the opposite, he purposely rocked the boat and at some point it was strategic to move him to lead one of the newly established departments in the Faculty. His aspiration to develop the Geography Department to further heights led him to appoint a science graduate into the Department. The young scientist that he brought in is now one of the leading climatologists in the country, Professor Dato' Azizan Abu Samah. He firmly believed that teaching and research on the subject of climatology is better taught by scientists.

Always keeping true to his nature of writing to the powers that be and offering his opinion due to his love for UM, he shot off a letter to the then Minister of Higher Education, Dato' Mustapha Mohamad dated 27 March, 2006. He lauded the fact that Dato' Mustapha was also a Colombo Plan Scholar and thus was absolutely confident that the Minister would be excellent in his job. Upon hearing that the Minister had formed a "select search committee" for the recommendation of suitable candidates for the post of Vice Chancellor, he recommended, amongst others, Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz, and

a Queen's Scholar Professor Francis Morsingh and the writer. In the letter too, he presented his opinion about falling standards and the efforts of UM's management to lift standards again.

27 March 2006

Y. Bhg. Dato' Mustafpha Mohamad  
Menteri Pelajaran Tinggi  
Malaysia

Y. Bhg. Dato',

When the announcement was made that a former Colombo Plan Scholar with First Class Honours in Economics was appointed to look after Higher Education the academic world felt relieved because of the high regard that we have for Colombo Plan Scholars. The Ministry of Higher Education has formed a "select search committee" for the recommendation of suitable candidates when vacancies for VCs arise. This in theory appears to conform to best practice as carried out in advanced countries but the fly in the ointment, in our case, is that the members of the search committee are, "non entities", none of whom can be regarded as "world class" in any sense of the word.

If the Ministry is serious about a search committee, then we need personalities like Royal Professor Ungku Aziz, Prof. Emeritus Datuk Abu Bakar Abd Hamid and Professor Francis Morsingh, Queens's Scholar who worked under the Nobel prize winner, Lord Robinson at Oxford.

Unfortunately the chairman of the LPU (University of Malaya) has been misinformed by the Staff Association Committee that are themselves weak as far as qualification and performance is concerned.



## IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR KT JOSEPH

KT is a great universal scholar. He has been very bold, in his inaugural speech, as a connoisseur of bold people, in sticking his neck out about what is being done, and as a scientist, as a scholar, he has made his case very clearly.

— Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz

It would not be an exaggeration to say that Prof. KT Joseph is irreplaceable. No one is able to take his place in playing a major role in not merely creating the right atmosphere in the Faculty of Arts but also in ensuring that a university is not a school. It was a place where some of the best brains in the country used to gather daily and they helped too to groom the younger academic staff to continue to play a role in the shaping of the Malaysian intellectual tradition.

— Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Khoo Kay Kim

.... KT and Anuwar did not foresee and would have been extremely pleased to see that the RM250,000 grant to do the fundamental research on crude red palm oil, produced such outstanding results.

— Professor Francis Morsingh

KT called a spade a spade. He had no other name for it, as he was truthful in his words. At times his boldness landed him in some uncomfortable situations...

— Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Hashim Yaacob

Not many people like a person who is critical. But I feel that as you grow older and hold the post of Professor, not many people are willing to say that our thinking is quite different from others. It is in this respect that I found KT a most sincere friend and was always ready to help.

— Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Hamid

