

# USM memorial plan for Murad

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**KEPALA BATAS:** Universiti Sains Malaysia plans to immortalise eminent educationist Tan Sri Murad Mohamed Noor by naming its research park after him.

It is in recognition of his contributions in the field of education and to the university.

Murad, 78, died on Tuesday night at the Intan Gleneagles Medical Centre in Ampang, Kuala Lumpur after being admitted to the hospital two weeks ago for lung infection.

He was buried at the Masjid Penaga Muslim cemetery yesterday evening.

USM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dzulkifli Abdul Razak said the research park, not far from the Equatorial Hotel in Bukit Jambul, was Murad's idea.

He said the 12.4-hectare park, in various stages of planning, would be launched in a few months' time.

"It is sad that Tan Sri Murad won't be around for the launch. He suggested that USM buy the land for the research park when I was made vice-chancellor," said Dzulkifli.

He said Murad's contributions to the university were many, as after he retired as Education director-general, he was appointed chairman of the USM Council.

"Although he retired in the 1980's, he was never short of ideas to improve the country's education system, and particularly that of the university, which has emerged as a prominent research university in the country."

Murad was Education director-general from 1976 to 1985.

"USM is indebted to Murad. His spirit will live on while his contributions will continue to spur the university to attain greater success."

"I remember him likening making changes to the education system to having to change one's attire instead of just patching up the torn parts but still wearing the same," he said.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said Murad had been instrumental in developing the education system in the country.

"He also gave invaluable advice in the preparation of the



Former director-general of education the late Tan Sri Murad Mohamed Noor

ministry's New Education Blueprint."

He added that Murad, who had also been the chairman of Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris in Tanjung Malim, Perak, had also been a great mentor to many educationists in advancing the course of education in Malaysia.

Education director-general Datuk Alimuddin Md Dom said among Murad's greatest contributions was making



Puan Sri Azidah Ayop Razali pouring scented water on her husband Tan Sri Murad Mohamed Noor's grave in Kepala Batas yesterday.

Sekolah Agama Rakyat (religious schools) to be on par with national schools.

"Many of his education initiatives are still in use today," said Alimuddin who is on a working visit in Switzerland.

One of Murad's greatest

contribution to the field of education in Malaysia is the report that carries his name, the Murad Report, which aimed to tackle the problem of early dropping out in schools.

It was widely implemented when he was the Education

Ministry's director of Planning and Research.

Murad was also responsible for the introduction of the New School Curriculum (KBRSR) in 1983 which stressed on the 3Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic). — Bernama