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Tan Sri Dato' Muhammad Ali Hashim (1947-2017)

Apnizan Abdullah

Tan Sri Dato' Muhammad Ali Hashim was born in Mersing on 19 April, 1947. He graduated with a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from the University of Malaya in 1969 and successfully completed the Senior Executive Programme at Stanford University, USA, in 1985. Ali Hashim was conferred Honorary Doctorates in Management by University of Technology, Malaysia (UTM), in 2000, Entrepreneurship by MARA University of Technology (UiTM) and Technology Management from Tun Hussein Onn University of Malaysia (UTHM) in 2007.

The numerous accolades associated with him are recognition of his excellent entrepreneurial leadership and contributions to society via Johor Corporation (JCorp). He served JCorp as Chief Executive Officer for 28 years, from January 1982 until July 2010. Undeniably, JCorp emerged as one of Malaysia's leading corporations under his leadership, with some 280 companies under its group. Through its group of companies, JCorp emerged as a domestic market leader in several businesses, particularly in industrial development, plantation, healthcare and food and restaurants services. Their successful businesses are not only found in Malaysia but in other countries too, such as Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Australia.

With the outstanding entrepreneurial leadership he possessed, Ali Hashim was appointed as chairman, president and chief executive officer of various other entities, including the Advisory Council of KFC Holdings Malaysia Bhd, Kumpulan Perubatan (Johor) Sdn. Bhd, Kumpulan Waqaf An-Nur Berhad,

Tanjung Langsat Port Sdn Bhd, Board of Sindora Bhd, Kulim Malaysia Bhd, KFC Holdings Malaysia Bhd, EA Technique (M) Sdn Bhd, QSR Brands Bhd and KPJ Healthcare Bhd. He also headed Yayasan Perbadanan Johor, Pelaburan Johor Berhad and Bistari Johor Berhad. He was also the then President of Pasir Gudang Local Authority and Vice President of the Malaysian Islamic Chamber of Commerce. His high integrity led to his appointment as non-executive chairman of several prominent business organisations, such as Damansara Realty Berhad, Damansara REIT Managers Sdn Bhd and Johor Land Bhd. Prior to these appointments, he served as Johor Economic Relations Officer of Bank Negara Malaysia, Chief Assistant Secretary of Sarawak Chief Minister's Office, Deputy Director of Planning Unit, Sarawak State Government and Project Manager at Kulim (Malaysia) Berhad.

He was closely associated with the Waqaf An-Nur Clinic, a charitable organisation extending healthcare services to the needy. This clinic is an arm of Waqaf An-Nur Corporation Bhd, the first corporate *waqf* entity in Malaysia, of which he served as chairman. As at 2011, the asset value of this corporation was RM502 million. This establishment was an actualisation of his idea of corporate *waqf*. As an advocate of this idea, Ali Hashim frequently highlighted the huge potential of corporate *waqf* in accelerating Muslim equity in the country. His speeches on social responsibility and corporate *waqf* could not have been separated. He strongly encouraged more Muslims to be involved and prosper in business. He translated this encouragement through his idea of '*Business jihad*'.

Ali Hashim was admired for his endless dedication towards upholding Islamic values and principles in business management. He transmitted his concern for integrity and trustworthiness in business through his books, namely "*Membujur Lalu – Satu Pengalaman Orang Melayu Dalam Pengurusan*" (1995), "*Bisnes Satu Cabang Jihad – Pembudayaan Bisnes Untuk Survival*" (2003), "*Khalifah Ganti Superman*" (2011) and "*Strategi Jihad Bisnes*" (2015). His enormous contributions to the development of entrepreneurship and the economic position of the Muslim community led to the conferment on him of the *Maal Hijrah Appreciation Award* by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 2007. Prior to that, he was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Rotary Club of Johor Bharu in 1994, Director of the Year 1995 by the Malaysian Institute of Directors, Property Chief Executive Officer of the Year 2005 by the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI - Malaysia) and World Halal Forum Best Corporate Social Responsibility Program Award 2006 by Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the then Prime Minister of Malaysia. The federal government of Malaysia honoured him with the Panglima Setia Mahkota (PSM) award in 2000, which carried the title 'Tan Sri'.

On 31 October 2017, Ali Hashim departed this world at the age of 70 due to cancer. On behalf of the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS)

Malaysia, we offer our deepest condolences to his family members and friends. His departure was indeed a great loss to the Muslim *ummah* due to his immense contribution to society at large. May Allah shower His endless blessings upon him and reward him justly for the great deeds rendered throughout his lifetime.

Muhammad Mustafa Al-A'zami (1930-2017)

Mohd Fariz Zainal Abdullah

Dr. Muhammad Mustafa Al-A'zami was born in 1930 to a simple family in the city of Mau, India. His father was instrumental in his upbringing and nurtured his love for religious life and learning. Muhammad Mustafa Al-A'zami began his early education in several *madrasah* in India, until obtaining admission to the famous Dar Al-'Ulum in Deoband, wherein he was one of the students of the great Hadith scholar, As-Sheikh Hussein Ahmad Al-Madani. He graduated from Dar Al-'Ulum in 1952, with a *Fadhilah* Certificate in Islamic Jurisprudence – a qualification that is equivalent to a Master's Degree.

He then went to Aligarh Islamic University for a year before getting the chance to study at Al-Azhar University in Egypt. While there, he obtained *Al-'Alimiyyah* – which is equivalent to a Master's Degree – together with certificate to teach in the field of Usul al-Din in the year 1955. After Al-Azhar he went to Qatar and started teaching Arabic to non-Arabic speakers and later worked at the National Public Library where he was exposed to many manuscripts, especially with regard to *hadith*. His love for *hadith* and its sciences took a giant leap while he was there and he never looked back.

In 1964, he travelled to the United Kingdom and pursued his PhD studies at Cambridge University under the supervision of a well-known British scholar of Arabic, Persian and Islamic studies, Professor Arthur J. Arberry. Al-A'zami completed his doctorate in 1966 with a thesis entitled '*Studies in Early Hadith Literature*' that actually brought him into prominence as a scholar throughout the world, especially in the field of *hadith*. In 1968, he was appointed Associate Professor at the Faculty of Shari'ah, Umm Al-Qura University, in Mecca. Five years later he took up a professorship in Prophetic Hadith at King Saud University, Riyadh, where he stayed until his retirement in 1991 as Professor Emeritus and Chair of the Department of Islamic Studies.

His expertise and scholarship were widely recognised, both in the Islamic and Western worlds. He was a visiting scholar and professor at Oxford, Princeton and Michigan during the 80s and 90s. Dr. Al-A'zami's contributions to the academic world can be gathered into three major areas. His foremost contribution was an