



09 AUG, 2019

## Tribute to a remarkable late activist

The Star (Metro North), Malaysia



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Late CAP founder  
and president  
honoured at  
memorial service  
>4



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### CAP founder remembered for selfless service to the people

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MORE than 100 people gathered to attend the memorial service of the late Consumer Association of Penang (CAP) president SM Mohamed Idris.

Close friends, family members, CAP members and the public attended the memorial held at Wawasan Open University (WOU) in Penang.

CAP acting president Mohideen Abdul Kader, who is the brother of Mohamed Idris, said the event was to remember the service of his brother and to celebrate his activism in a life dedicated to the people.

"My brother was a remarkable man. He championed the poor, marginalised and underprivileged. We will remember him for his commitment to people, selflessness and also thirst for knowledge.

"Mohamed Idris did not want any titles or honours and I hope CAP will continue his good work," he said at the recent event.

Mohamed Idris' daughter Fathima Idris said her father was a person liked by all.

"Some of my father's involvements included bringing drainage systems to villages when he was an active municipal councillor.

"He also started the tree planting initiative," she said.

PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was present, said Mohamed Idris was like an "uncle" to him.

"Mohamed Idris was passionate about his social work on issues such as reclamation, consumerism and many more.

"He was like family to me and he never failed to lend his support when I contested in the Permatang



**Khor:** Mohamed Idris had an incredible mind with an insatiable thirst for information on all kinds of issues, from the most minute to the largest

Paoh constituency."

CAP secretary Martin Khor said Mohamed Idris was the most intelligent man he had ever known.

"I knew Mohamed Idris for more than 40 years. He had an incredible mind with an insatiable thirst for information on all kinds of issues, from the most minute to the largest.

"He was also a person who turned ideas into action," he added.

Former Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said Mohamed Idris ignited the fire for activism in him.

"I was persuaded by him to join CAP and was given the task of helping to promote consumer education in schools.

"Mohamed Idris asked me to start a Chinese version of Utusan Konsumer and with the help of several journalists, we published it



Mohamed Idris (right) and a CAP staff member's daughter, Komalpreet Kaur, hugging an angsa tree slated to be axed for a road-widening project back in 2012. In Penang, the tree-planting initiative to make the state green was attributed to Mohamed Idris. — Filepic

within a few months," he said. Koh recalled an incident when Mohamed Idris went to his house early in the morning the day after he was sworn in as the chief minister.

"I was still in my bed when my wife told me that Mohamed Idris was at the door.

"I knew he wanted to discuss a development project in Penang Hill.

"He was very firm on his stand

and in the end, we managed to stop the project," Koh said.

Several people including Penang Heritage Trust vice-president Khoo Salma Nasution, environmentalist and Goa Foundation director Claude Alvarez, humanitarian Datuk Anwar Fazal and many more spoke at the memorial service.

Mohamed Idris, 93, passed away in Penang Gleneagles Hospital after being warded for heart complications. He was CAP founding presi-

dent for 50 years.

CAP headed the pressure group that lobbied for the eventual creation of the Department of Environment in 1975.

Mohamed Idris' efforts over the last five decades also led to, among others, ban on toxic drugs, the labelling of expiry dates on all food products, better benefits under Socso and Employees Provident Fund, and better legal standing for tenants and house buyers.



Koh (above) says Mohamed Idris asked him to start a Chinese version of Utusan Konsumer which was eventually published with the help of several journalists.

(Left pic) Anwar says Mohamed Idris was like family and never failed to lend his support when Anwar contested in the Permatang Pauh constituency.



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### SUMMARIES

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