



## **En. Wan Haron Bin Wan Hassan**

(3<sup>rd</sup> July 1952 – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019)

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It is with great sadness we record that Mr Wan Haron Bin Wan Hassan, who was a partner of Messrs Wan Haron & Associates in Subang Jaya, Selangor, passed away on 11 November 2019.

### **Short Biography**

Wan Haron was born on 3 July 1952 to Wan Hassan Wan Abdullah, a businessman and Wan Aminah Che Ali, a housewife and brought up in Kota Bharu, Kelantan, where he attended Sultan Ismail College, Kota Bharu for his secondary education. He was subsequently awarded a scholarship by Malaysian International Merchant Bankers (now known as Maybank Investment Bank) to pursue a degree in Economics & Business Administration in University Malaya in 1973 till 1976. During his stint there, he was very active in the student unions' activities.

After a few years working in the corporate sector, Wan Haron who was blessed with the gift of the gab, realised he had law as his calling. In 1980, he brought his young family to the UK to read law at the University of Buckingham where he obtained his second degree, the LLB. He then proceeded to do the Barrister-at-law course at Lincoln's Inn of Court.

In 1983, Wan Haron returned to Malaysia with his family and after completing his pupillage in 1985, he was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya. He then founded and set up the legal firm Messrs Wan Haron Sukri & Nordin in Kota Bharu with his 2 ex-magistrate friends, which still stands till today. In 1989, he moved to Kuala Lumpur and opened up a branch in Kuala Lumpur and later on, 2 more branches in Petaling Jaya and

Subang Jaya before consolidating the Klang Valley branches under one Subang Jaya branch in 2011. In the same year, Wan Haron made the decision to re-organise the firms by leaving the existing partnership and continuing his legal practice under the name and style of Messrs Wan Haron & Associates alongside his eldest daughter and younger brother.

Those who have known Wan Haron would be familiar with his delightful personality. He had the ability to make everyone feel at ease with him, often cracking jokes coupled with witty comments. Yet he was not just a mere humorist amongst the lads or so to speak. Most importantly, he was well-known for his charismatic personality and insightful analysis on current affairs. He always spoke of the inspiring possibilities. A conversation with him would always leave you feeling inspired and re-energized to dream bigger and achieve more.

As a testament to his leadership abilities, in his youth he held the post of Chairman of the Mosque Committee of Banggol, Kota Bharu with YM Tengku Razaleigh as the patron. In 1988, he rallied his friends and successfully built the first mosque in his hometown, Sultan Ismail Mosque in Kg Banggol, Kelantan, uniting people of various political backgrounds. He dedicated the last few years of his life as a Legal Adviser to the Masjid Darul-Ehsan Subang Jaya Mosque Committee and SS12/2 Residents' Association. He also had a particular interest in national affairs and was always in the midst of political activism, either as an active participant or as an advisor. In addition, he had a fervent passion in writing, often publishing articles in the *Edge*, *Sinar Harian* & *Malaysia Today* on matters of national interest. Restless to see more positive improvements in the nation yet fatigued with the advancing age and sickness that was catching up with him, he would often remind himself of the Robert Frost quote: -

*"The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep."*

In his view, which he often advocates to friends and family members, more needs to be done thus we should not rest on our laurels.

Though he attained success in his career, he remains rooted to his humble upbringing. Equally polished to speak and dine with kings but also at ease and home with the common man.

As a family man, he was well loved by many. To each of his 6 children, he managed to make each and everyone feel like they were his favourite. Amongst the nephews and nieces, many would deem him as their favourite uncle. He was the 'go-to' grandparent, often spoiling his grandchildren with secret treats, expensive toys and spontaneous trips to the shopping malls. He would make time and the effort to listen to his family members' problems including the teenage woes of his grandchildren, and offer them sound advice and practical solutions. Being the eldest son with 6 other siblings and the glue that holds the family together, Wan Haron would often play host to his extended family members, hosting family gatherings and events complete with "gotong royong" type of cooking to strengthen the bond and harmony among his family, siblings and their families. Family was his upmost priority. Amongst his last few departing words to his family were "*We have a happy family*", "*I am proud of my children*" and "*Keep the kinship amongst our family strong*".

Wan Haron was also known to be an eternal optimist. It was difficult not be roused and spirited by his great enthusiasm. Whenever he spoke, he would captivate his audience with his charm, humour and zeal for life. Despite being diagnosed with cancer for the first time in March 2019 and undergoing intensive treatments following the months after, he was still able to cheerfully entertain his visitors and talk to them in his usual bantering self. Seeing his spirit and lively character, one would not have guessed he was battling Stage 4 cancer. It was his nature to always make others feel happy and at ease with him. Even at his death bed, he sensed the anxiousness of his family members around him yet he managed to comfort and lift up their spirits by saying "*We will fight this together*".

Wan Haron has left us too soon but we have been incredibly blessed to have had him in our lives. We take great comfort in knowing that he knew he was deeply loved and respected by so many. He will always be remembered as the charming, kind and generous man. The incorrigible optimist. May his legacy continue to live on the many lives that he had touched and inspired.

Al Fatihah to Allahyarham Wan Haron bin Wan Hassan, my late father - a devoted father, a loving husband, a thoughtful son, a fun and sporting grandfather, a rock steady brother and a great loss to all of us. You will always be missed and will forever be in our hearts.

*Written By,*

*En. Azri Malek*