

Dato' Seri Salleh Bin Mat Som
(Demised - 16th July 2008)



Salleh Mat Som was born on 30th December, 1948 to a poor family. Life in early childhood was never comfortable. Nothing was adequate and had to be shared among 15 siblings. Nevertheless, with a strict and disciplined upbringing, humble and modest living, he completed his secondary education at Anderson School, Ipoh, Perak.

Salleh Mat Som as a young boy; had always aspired to become a lawyer. His aspiration had to be put on hold due to limited resources. With only a Senior Cambridge Certificate, Salleh Mat Som started as a clerk in a government department.

Nothing could put a stop to his eagerness in achieving his childhood dream and ambition. Salleh Mat Som joined PDRM in 1970, a stepping stone he thought would get him nearer to achieving and fulfilling his ambition. Awarded a JPA scholarship, Salleh Mat Som left for the UK in 1976 to read law and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn. Upon his return in 1979, he read in the Chambers of Messrs K. C. Chai & Co. and was called to the Malaysian Bar in 1981.

Bonded by the JPA scholarship, Salleh Mat Som faithfully and devotedly stayed loyal to PDRM, till the very last day of his 35 years in office. Salleh Mat Som loved the training and strict regime of the force.

Salleh Mat Som was best remembered in PDRM as the CID Director (his last posting was the Internal Security and Public Order Director) for the high profile cases he was working on. Salleh Mat Som was a man of discipline and integrity. In the course of his duties, he stuck to the principle that he is solely responsible to the law and the law itself.

Salleh Mat Som had a short stint in the corporate sector, the National Aerospace Defence Industries, after retirement from the government service. In 2007, Salleh Mat Som untirelessly devoted himself to setting up his own law firm – Messrs M. S. Salleh & Associates, which saw him almost fulfilling his dream and ambition.

However fate dealt a cruel blow, when in the same year, Salleh Mat Som was diagnosed with renal cancer. He was bedridden in December, 2007 until his untimely and premature demise at the age of 59 years 6 ½ months on 16th July, 2008. Salleh Mat Som fell short of realising his dreams. No one understands why something like this would befall a man, who had so much potential to contribute to the society.

Salleh Mat Som leaves a son and his loyal and faithful wife of 32 years, Datin Seri Rohana Binti Ahmad, who stood fiercely by him through and through, both in good and bad times.

Datin Seri Rohana Binti Ahmad