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Perak woman first recipient of Exemplary Single Mother Award

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Amran Tengku Raja, 57, became the first recipient of the Exemplary Single Mothers Award today during the launch of World Consumer Rights Day by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Amran, from Ayer Tawar, Perak, is a woman of substance, raising her seven children singlehandedly since she separated from her husband 26 years ago.

Dr Mahathir presented RM3,000, a hamper and certificate to the slightly-built Amran.

The second and third prizes went to Maznah Yacob, 58, and Ajaib Kaur, 54, respectively.

Maznah received RM2,000, a hamper and certificate while Ajaib walked away with RM1,000, a hamper and certificate.

Other awards presented were for the Best School Consumer Club, Most Active District and State Consumer Affairs' Council, Shops with the Most Reasonably Priced Goods, and Tokoh Pengguna.

Except for the Exemplary Single Mothers Award, the other awards are being presented for the sixth year running by the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry.

Its Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob was also present during the prize-giving ceremony.

Amran, upon receiving her award, advised mothers to be thrifty and wise in planning their daily budget.

"I have seen some mothers spending extravagantly and unnecessarily."

Amran managed to bring up her children with a monthly income of about RM400 in the 1970s. Her family's quality of life improved when she secured a position as religious teacher in a kindergarten in the 1980s.

Her children, a son and six daughters, are all grown up now, with the youngest being 25. All managed to secure places in institutions of higher learning.

Amran can afford to take things a little easier now. She spends a substantial amount of her leisure time getting involved in community activities.

Asked what she would do with the cash prize, Amran said she would use it to perform the umrah.

The other award winner was dean of Universiti Putra Malaysia's Social Ecology Faculty Associate Professor Dr Halimah Ahmad, who was named Tokoh Pengguna. She received RM2,000, a medal and certificate.

Sekolah Menengah Teknik Kangar, Perlis was awarded RM3,000, a trophy and certificate for Best School Consumer Club.

The Seberang Perai Selatan and Terengganu Consumer Affairs' Councils were adjudged Best District and State Consumer Councils respectively.

The Seberang Perai council was awarded RM3,000, a trophy and certificate. The Terengganu council received RM5,000, a trophy and certificate.

World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on March 15 every year to enhance consumer awareness.

It is also to forge closer understanding among traders, distributors, consumers and the Government.

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