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PM gets unique gift from Lion Group staff

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad may have received many gifts during his 15 years as the country's leader, but the one he received today must be among the most unique - a one-metre by 1.7-metre steel-framed poster of newspaper clippings from his years in office.

His wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali accepted the poster on his behalf from The Lion Group executive director Datuk Albert Cheng at Menara Lion today.

The clippings on the 100-kilogramme poster go as far back as 1981, a spokesman for the group said, and they reflect the Prime Minister's "patience and courage in his pursuit to develop Malaysia".

Four staff members of The Lion Group subsidiary Amsteel Mills Sdn Bhd took three days to complete the poster, which was signed by the group's employees throughout Malaysia.

Dr Siti Hasmah thanked the group for its recognition of her husband's efforts and said such gestures of appreciation spurred the country's leaders to work even harder.

She said the poster would initially be exhibited at Sri Perdana and would then be displayed at Galeri Perdana in Langkawi.

Later, Dr Siti Hasmah received a poster from Puan Sri Chelsia Cheng, wife of group chairman and managing director Tan Sri William Cheng, on behalf of the group's women employees.

The spokesman said the tribute arose from a statement Siti Hasmah herself made two months ago that "Behind every successful man is not just a woman but his wife".

The Lion Group's women employees wanted to express their admiration for Dr Siti Hasmah who had played "an exemplary role" in supporting her husband behind the scenes since 1981, the spokesman said.

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