

16 MAY 2001

Teachers-Award

FIVE TEACHERS RECEIVE AWARDS FROM DR MAHATHIR

MELAKA, May 16 (Bernama) -- Five model teachers, including a woman, received the National "Tokoh Guru" Awards 2001 from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in conjunction with the national-level Teachers' Day celebrations at Dewan Seri Negeri, Air Keroh, here tonight.

They were Mohamed Saat Bongkek, 61, from Johor; Abang Hamdan Abang Jas, 59, from Sarawak; Hajah Siti Aishah Abd Rahman, 57, from Kelantan; Sulaiman Samad, 65, from Negeri Sembilan and Robert David, 78, from Penang.

They were chosen by the Education Ministry to receive the awards based on their integrity as a teacher and outstanding contribution to the teaching profession besides their involvement in social services and other fields.

The elaborate ceremony was also attended by Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam, Director-General of Education Abdul Rafie Mahat and more than 3,000 teachers from throughout the country.

Gwedeline Entika Joseph, 53, from Sekolah Kebangsaan Astana, Kuching, Sarawak was also given the Excellent Award for Special Education 2001 at the 30th anniversary of Teachers' Day, themed "Upholding the Dignity of the Teaching Profession is a Collective Responsibility".

Mohamed Saat, who had been involved in the teaching profession for 40 years, had served in several primary and secondary schools in Batu Pahat, Johor and his last post was as Principal of the Temenggong Ibrahim Teacher Training College, Johor Baharu from 1992 to 1994.

Mohamed Saat, who is now the Village Head of Kempas, Johor Bahru, was awarded the Kesatria Mangku Negara (KMN) in 1998, the Batu Pahat Teacher's Award in 1977 and the Johor "Tokoh Guru" Award in 1999.

Abang Hamdan Abang Jas, from Miri, Sarawak was the recipient of the Sarawak "Tokoh Guru" Award in 1999 and his last post was as Assistant Supervisor at the District Education Department, Miri.

Other awards received by Abang Hamdan throughout his 38-year career in the teaching profession included the Perak Youth Award in 1993, Excellent Service Medal (1995), "Bentara Bintang Sarawak" (1989) and "Pingat Perkhidmatan Baik" (1984).

Siti Aishah, who was the Kota Baharu District Education Officer from 1997 until her retirement in 1999, had received the Kelantan State "Tokoh Guru" Award last year after having served 28 years in the profession.

Born in Kampung Surau Kota, Kota Bharu, she began her career as a teacher at Sekolah Menengah Zainab in 1971 after obtaining a Teaching Diploma from the University of Tasmania, Australia.

The fourth recipient of the "Tokoh Guru" Award, Sulaiman was born in Kuala Pilah and became a trainee teacher in 1953 and retired as Principal of Sek Men Keb Batu Kikir, Negeri Sembilan.

He had received various awards including the Negeri Sembilan "Tokoh Guru" Award in 1997, Pingat Jasa Kebaktian (1984), Ahli Mangku Negara (1988) and the Excellent Service Award from the Education Ministry in 1988.

David, born in Nibong Tebal, was the recipient of the Penang "Tokoh Guru" Award last year and had been active in social work.

He began his teaching career in 1946 and retired in 1978. He had also served in the civil defence unit during the emergency and had been advisor to the Juvenile Court and a member of the State Welfare Board.

-- BERNAMA

SBS AO