

17 MAY 2002

Hasmah-Badminton

SITI HASMAH CONGRATULATES MALAYSIAN BADMINTON TEAM

SEPANG, May 17 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister's wife and Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) patron, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali today congratulated the national badminton team for qualifying to the finals of The Thomas Cup.

"I'm happy, together with all other Malaysians, that the team qualified to the final and I congratulate them on behalf of Malaysians," she told reporters after receiving the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Bilik Bunga Raya at the KL International Airport (KLIA) today.

She said the 4-1 victory over China was something to be cherished as the national players who played were very young.

"It is difficult to break the great wall of China, they have players in the top three world ranking, but our players played with quality and pride," she said.

She said the seven-point system introduced in badminton recently needed players who were very fit and the younger players maximised on this.

"I hope they will continue their march towards lifting the Cup although they are not exposed to that level yet," she added.

Siti Hasmah said she spoke to several players who played yesterday and urged them to give their best.

Asked on the "goodies" the players stood to gain if they won the Cup, she said Malaysians should not talk about rewards now as the mission was not accomplished.

"We don't want them to think about rewards but to play for the pride of the nation," she said.

-- BERNAMA

SR AZH ANA