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Mahathir-Bakti (Pix)

BAKTI'S DREAM TO HAVE OWN BUILDING ACHIEVED

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- The 26-year wait by the Association of Wives of Ministers' and Deputy (BAKTI) to have their own building to carry out their activities has finally ended with the opening of the "Bakti Siti Hasmah" building, here tonight.

The building, located at Bukit Kiara, was officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also patron of the welfare organisation since 1981.

In his speech at the official opening of the Bakti building, Dr Mahathir said he hoped that the remote location of the building, which was quite a distance from Putrajaya, would not deter the spirit of Bakti members to carry out their responsibility.

"Although most ministers have now moved to Putrajaya...so it's quite a distance to get to the building...we must accept...but with the spirit of Bakti (members) I'm confident the communications problem could be solved, although it's far from Putrajaya, I'm confident the building can be utilised fully," he said.

Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Cabinet Ministers, Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers.

The Bakti Siti Hasmah building would be the host for all Bakti activities which previously used to be held at Sri Perdana.

Bakti president Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, in her speech at the ceremony, said the proposal to have the organisation's own building was made when the government was offering a piece of land each to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the Bukit Kiara area, and Bakti was also offered one.

However, she said Bakti had to work hard to get the fund to finance the construction of the first Bakti building.

"What we shall see a moment after the official opening by the Prime Minister cum Patron of BAKTI, is a building which is BAKTI's dream.

"Apart from housing BAKTI's secretariat and office for the President, it also has several functional rooms. We try to make this building community friendly so that Bakti can fulfil our objectives of helping the children and adults who are in need," she said.

-- BERNAMA

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