

31 OCT 2003

Mahathir-Tun

DR MAHATHIR AND WIFE CONFERRED TITLE TUN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today conferred the Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara (S.M.N), the nation's highest award which carries the title Tun, shortly after stepping down as prime minister.

His wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, was conferred the Seri Setia Mahkota Malaysia (S.S.M), which also carries the title Tun.

The awards were bestowed by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail at the Balairong Seri, Istana Negara, here after Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi took his oath of office as Malaysia's fifth prime minister.

The swearing-in, which started at 3.05pm, was attended by Abdullah's wife, Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, cabinet ministers, menteri besar and other dignitaries.

The S.M.N. award received by Dr Mahathir is the Darjah Yang Mulia Pangkuan Negara (First Class) and is confined to 25 recipients, excluding foreigners who receive the honorary award.

It carries the title Tok Puan for the recipient's wife.

The S.S.M. award received by Dr Siti Hasmah is the Darjah Yang Mulia Setia Mahkota Malaysia (First Class), which is also confined to 25 recipients, excluding foreigners who are bestowed the honorary award.

Dr Mahathir was prime minister for 22 years. He took over the post from Tun Hussein Onn when he was the deputy prime minister.

He was sworn in as the country's fourth prime minister before Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah on July 16, 1981.

Tun Hussein, who died on May 29, 1990, received the S.M.N. in 1981.

The second prime minister, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein was conferred the S.M.N. on Aug 31, 1959, the second anniversary of the country's independence.

Others who were conferred the S.S.M. which carries the title Tun included two former deputy prime ministers, the late Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman in 1996 and Tun Ghafar Baba in 1995.

Tun Abdul Razak's wife, Tun Rahah Mohamed Noah, was conferred the S.S.M. in 1976.

-- BERNAMA

SSA MUN MFJ AU JK