

15 OCT 2003

Hasmah-Bakti

SITI HASMAH WILL CONTINUE AS ACTIVE BAKTI MEMBER

PETALING JAYA, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who will be stepping down as president of the Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti) by end of the month, will continue to be an active member of the association.

The wife of the Prime Minister said: "I will still be with Bakti.

"Although I will be an outgoing president of Bakti, I will be the incoming associate member (of the association), and I still will be with Bakti," she told Bernama after presenting a RM20,000 cheque to the Taman Megah Handicapped and Disabled Children's Home in Subang Jaya today.

About 40 children from the home were also given a Deepavali treat at a hotel here.

Siti Hasmah has been Bakti president for the last 22 years, ever since Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad became Prime Minister in 1981. Dr Mahathir will be stepping down from the post at the end of this month.

Asked on her feelings in leaving the post which she has held for more than two decades, Dr Siti Hasmah said: "No, I don't feel anything. I need to rest also and give my deputy the opportunity to come up.

" I always feel there is no difference. I will miss the activities which Bakti members have always been involved in," she said.

However, she said she knew they would continue to invite her to the activities.

She said the association had been involved in so many activities. This year they had been busy with the opening of Bakti's own building in Bukit Kiara last Sunday, and the annual Piala Perdana badminton tournament.

Despite nearing her retirement from the post, Dr Siti Hasmah is still active in organising activities for the association.

"Tomorrow Bakti members are going to do their annual shopping to get things for Hari Raya, and also to get ready the cakes for the armed forces and police, which we do every year," she said.

-- BERNAMA

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