

14 MAY 2003

Maulidur-Award

WOMAN AMONG FOUR NON-MUSLIM RECIPIENTS OF MAULIDUR RASUL AWARD

KUALA LUMPUR, May 14 (Bernama) -- A nursing manager was the only woman among four non-Muslims out of nine recipients of the National Maulidur Rasul awards this year, at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil here today.

Lim Ai Loon, 53, the manager based at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Hospital, was selected for her contributions to the community, particularly in raising the health standards in the rural community.

After 22 years, Lim from Negeri Sembilan, was equally active in promoting health education through public forums, especially on diabetes.

"In my opinion everyone should provide the best service possible to develop the nation, irrespective of their religion or background," she told reporters after the ceremony.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail presented the awards at the celebration, attended by about 10,000 representatives from government agencies, corporate bodies and non-governmental organisations.

Also present at the celebration, themed Together Appreciating the Beauty of Islam, was the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, the Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, cabinet ministers and foreign dignitaries.

Another non-Muslim recipient was Prisons Assistant Superintendent, G. Thavamany Devapitghini, 52, who said the programme should continue to encourage more people to get involved in social work as well as provide positive feedback from other communities towards Islam.

Thavamany, who now works at the Kajang Prisons Department Director's office, has served the Prisons Department for the past 28 years and has vast experience in conducting rehabilitation programmes for prisoners and drug addicts.

He had successfully rehabilitated 500 out of the 803 prisoners and Serenti drug rehabilitation centre inmates since 1992, through a Therapeutic Community programme, modelled after a programme in the United States.

Muhamad Nasir Zakaria, 23, who donated part of his liver to three-year-old Mohd Fakhrul Radzi was very touched to receive the award.

The technician from the Operation Procedures Department at Petronas Gas Berhad Kertih, Kemaman, promised he would try his best to continue helping people in need.

In KOTA KINABALU, a centenarian was among the Sabah Maulidur Rasul Award recipients from the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah.

Mандаud Osman, 116, was elated despite receiving the award for the third time, for his contributions towards propagating Islam in the state.

The former imam in Kampung Cinta Mata, in Tenom district, about 179km from here reminisced about the difficulties he faced as a missionary in the past.

He said: "In the past there was not much information available but now there is more knowledge available and it's therefore easier to propagate Islam".

Datuk Pengiran Abdul Rahman Datuk Seri Panglima Pengiran Digadong Mohd Galpam, 41, a businessman from Sandakan, and Hasnah Mohd Yaakub, 40, a teacher from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Keningau II were the other two

recipients here.

Each recipient also received RM3,000 cash, a certificate of appreciation and a complementary gift.

-- BERNAMA

SHI MK VRN