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Siti Hasmah-Award
DR SITI HASMAH AWARDED FELLOW INTAN AWARD 2003

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali was today awarded the Fellow Intan Award 2003 in recognition of her commitment, spanning over two decades, to national and community development.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman presented the award at a ceremony at Intan Bukit Kiara here. Also present was her husband and former prime minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In her acceptance speech, Dr Siti Hasmah advised holders of public office to adopt a life-long learning culture to better themselves.

"Although you are busy in the office, take time occasionally to enhance your skill.

"Don't be satisfied with what you have learnt during your university days and while in Intan," she said.

She all advised them to steer clear of corruption, criminal breach of trust, cheating, vices and other immoral activities.

Dr Siti Hasmah's career in the public service began in 1955 in Kuala Lumpur Hospital where she was doing her housemanship. She was also acting Medical Superintendent, Principal of Rural Health Training School, Health Officer for North Kedah, Women and Child Health Officer for Kedah and had also served with the Public Health Institute.

She ended her medical service in 1979 to concentrate on her duties as wife to deputy prime minister and eventually to prime minister from 1981.

Samsudin in his speech urged civil servants to emulate Dr Siti Hasmah who was dedicated to her duties and responsibilities to the race and country.

New holders of public office should start on the right footing to avoid falling prey to practice and habits that could prove destructive to themselves and the public service, he said.

"In our profession, we will be posted to position of influence and make important decisions that affect the general public, companies and

individuals.

"If we let our personal interest to influence our decision, naturally we cannot make a fair decision in the interest of the public and service," he said.

Asked by reporters later whether the government would formulate certain module to curb corruption in the civil service, Samsudin said holders of public office were frequently reminded of the danger of corruption.

In fact, he said during their training and courses, they were inculcated with high ethical values so as to serve their duties with honesty.

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