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Orchid-Siti Hasmah

MARDI NAMES ORCHID HYBRID AFTER DR SITI HASMAH

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Mardi) has named a new orchid hybrid after former first lady Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

Mardi Director-General Saharan Anang said the naming of "Aranda Doctor Siti Hasmah" orchid was to appreciate Dr Siti Hasmah's enormous contributions in the field of floral research and development.

"The naming of the orchid reflects Mardi's sincere appreciation of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who played an important role in the development of the institute".

Saharan said this at the function to hand over the hybrid orchid to Dr Siti Hasmah in Serdang near here today.

He said it was customary of Mardi to name its orchid hybrids after the country's dignitaries like "Dendrobium Tuanku Najihah" and "Mokara Tuanku Siti Aishah".

Saharan said the Aranda Doctor Siti Hasmah orchid was a hybrid between "Aranda Christine Alba" and "Vanda Boon Mark Gold".

"This second generation of Aranda hybrid has a larger cylinder-shaped flower," he said.

Flowers from this orchid species have a whitish-yellow tinge dotted with purplish spots and can last up to two weeks if separated from its stem.

Mardi senior researcher Rozlailly Zainol took 10 years to develop the Aranda hybrid, said Saharan.

-- BERNAMA

UHS AHH ZUL