

20 JUN 2004

Sports-Hasmah

TUN DR SITI HASMAH RECEIVES WOMEN AND SPORTS AWARD

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, wife of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was tonight awarded the Women and Sports Award 2004 by Women and Sports Committee of the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM).

She received the award from the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid at a ceremony here, which was also attended by Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Azalina Othman Said and OCM President Tunku Imran Tuanku Ja'afar.

The award was in recognition of Dr Siti Hasmah's active involvement in badminton as the patron of the BA of Malaysia (BAM) and her dedication, commitment and concern for the players, making her an affectionate mother-figure and leader to all badminton players.

"This recognition is very special to me. For me, sports not only promote physical fitness and healthy life style but also nurture emotional strength and discipline in leading the way to be a better person," said Dr Siti Hasmah in her short acceptance speech.

This was the second time the Women and Sports Committee of the OCM presented the award, the first being to National Classification Programme gymnastic coach Khaw Choon Ean for her 38 years of dedication and commitment to gymnastic.

Besides Dr Siti Hasmah, five women sports leaders also received special recognition from the committee.

They were Rajemah Sheikh Ahmad (former athlete and currently Vice-President of Malaysian Amateur Athletic Union), Datin Seri Noor Hazah Tengku Abdul Aziz (President of Malaysian Netball Association and Perak Lawn Bowl Association) and M. Vasugi Rai (1998 olympian and still active promoting taekwondo).

The other two recipients were Datin Fauziah Mohd Ramly of Malaysian Paralympic Council and T. Jayanyagee, a sports teacher and coach to

the
spastic Children's Association of Federal Territory and Selangor.

The committee's chairperson, Low Beng Choo said the award was to
any
person or groups for significant contribution to the promotion,
development
and advancement of women in any sports or sports-related activities
in the
country.

-- BERNAMA

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