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Siti Hasmah among four nominees for award

By K.M. Boopathy

BA of Malaysia (BAM) patron Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali is among the nominees for the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) Women in Sports award in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

Dr Siti Hasmah, wife of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is Malaysia's number one badminton supporter and has been involved with the development of BAM since the early 90s.

Her contributions, the most significant being the setting up of the Malaysia Badminton Foundation (YBM) in 1996, have helped BAM become one of the most well-run and financially stable national sports association.

The other nominees are former taekwondo international M. Vasugi, head instructor of Viva Taekwondo Centre, Perak Lawn Bowls Association president Tengku Noor Hazah Tengku Abdul Aziz Shah and Terengganu State Sports Council official Rajemah Sheikh Ahmad.

Vasugi has been instrumental in producing national junior and senior champions since retiring from competition in 1993 and recently received the best woman's coach award in the development category in the National Sports Council (NSC) coaching awards.

The Perak Lawn Bowls Association have been a constant provider to the national squad while Rajemah, wife of former Malaysia AAU (MAAU) coaching committee chairman Kamaruddin Maidin, is known for her contributions to athletics.

Former national gymnast Khaw Choon Ean won the inaugural award and RM1,000 cash last year.

Two nominees - Datin Fauziah Ramly and T. Jayanayagee - will vie for the special award for their contributions to the Malaysia Paralympic Council.

Besides the annual dinner and awards presentation, the OCM will also be having the second National Women and Sports seminar tomorrow where several sports administrators and professors will speak on various topics on women's involvement in sports.

Among the speakers are OCM vice-president Datuk Dr M. Jegathesan, secretary Datuk Sieh Kok Chi, former University of Loughborough lecturer Wirdati Radzi, Asian Women Group on Women and Sport chairperson Dr Etsuko Ogasawara, and Nanyang Technological University associate professor Dr Joan Fry.

OCM will also hold the OCM All-Women Sports Carnival at the Universiti Malaya on Sept 26 to generate interest among the younger generation.

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