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Six mothers get awards for raising families against all odds

RANTAU, Sat. - For their unfailing love, dedication and devotion, six mothers received awards at the national-level Mother's Day celebrations held here today.

These mothers were acknowledged for their sacrifice and perseverance in bringing up their families.

Three awards were given out to "special" or disabled mothers, and another three to mothers with disabled children.

The winners in the "mothers with special children" category were Abiaz Ibrahim from Alor Star; Lee Yau Yook from Durian Tunggal, Malacca; and M. Nagammal from Banting, Selangor.

The winners in the "special mothers" category were Rohani Noh from Kuantan; Patricia Richeal Sentau from Kota Samarahan, Sarawak; and A. Maliah from Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.

They received their awards from Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamad Hasan and Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil at the celebrations held at the Rantau community hall.

Abiaz, 53, brought up her son, Nabil Mahathir, 17, to be independent despite his blindness.

Employed as an administration clerk with the Alor Star Welfare Department, she said she never treated Nabil differently from his siblings.

Nabil has a diploma in religious studies from Khartoum University in Sudan. Rohani Noh, 53, won an award for bringing up her 10 children although she and her husband were blind.

Rohani had to depend on her husband's salary as a street musician and RM200 allowance from the Welfare Department.

Despite her disability, her children went to university.

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