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Veteran journalist makes appearance

VETERAN journalist, Azah Aziz (above), caught the eyes of many yesterday. Stopped by journalists as she made her way to the media centre, Azah was showered with hugs and kisses.

Azah who visited Galeri Jatiwanita on the last day of the assembly, was among the over 200 Malay women featured in the gallery, along with other successful women such as Zaharah Zaaba, Siti Hawa Zain, Adibah Amin, Puan Sri Ashidah Minin, Rosnah Majid, Jamelah Bakar, Zaharah Nawawi and Khadijah Hashim.

She left for home after touring the gallery, so as not to miss the winding-up speech by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Surprised to see the big turnout at the Putra World Trade Centre, she said given the choice she wanted to remain there to watch the address, but thought it would be impossible to do so without being crushed by the crowd.

Azah, whose uncle was Umno founder Datuk Onn Jaafar, said she had always followed the stewardship of Dr Mahathir closely and admired the leader.

The wife of Universiti Malaya former vice-chancellor Royal Prof Ungku Abdul Aziz, she was a secretary to New Straits Times editor-in-chief Leslie Hoffman, the man who introduced her to journalism.

She joined Berita Harian in 1957 where she later became its Women's Page editor.

A respected journalist, she had interviewed the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, boxer Muhammad Ali, Jehan El-Sadat and Pak Sako (Dr Ishak Haji Muhammad).

Azah devoted 20 years of her life to journalism and left to pursue her passion for Malay culture and tradition.