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Emulate the three Tuns, Dr Mahathir tells Malaysians

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad paid tribute to former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman, former Finance Minister Tun Tan Siew Sin and the first Governor of Bank Negara Tun Ismail Mohd Ali in an auspicious ceremony tonight.

Congratulating the families and relatives of the posthumous winners of the National Integrity Awards, the Prime Minister said he hoped the winners would become models for Malaysians.

"The personal virtues and qualities as exemplified by the three Tuns which we so admire are more relevant today than ever before as we struggle to strike a balance between material progress and spiritual development," he said.

Receiving the awards on behalf of the three Tuns were Tan Siok Choo, daughter of Tan, Mohd Tawfik, son of Dr Ismail and the two sons of Ismail, Kamal and Iskander.

Mohd Tawfik, in his acceptance speech, said his father had lived a life of integrity and obedience to the dictates of his conscience.

"He constantly reminded us, the children, that he was not in Government for power but only to help Tengku Abdul Rahman (the first Prime Minister) and the nation."

Iskander, in his speech, said if his father were here, "he would have reminded us that all these ethical values had been around since the beginning of civilisation".

Siok Choo said the values that the three recipients had upheld had made the nation and her family proud. "They are the icons of integrity and I am proud that my father was one of them," she said.

Present at the ceremony were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Kuala Lumpur Society for Transparency and Integrity president Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim, former Foreign Minister Tengku Tan Sri Ahmad Rithaudeen Tengku Ismail, Petronas chairman Tan Sri Azizan Zainol Abidin, former Primary Industries Ministry secretarygeneral G.K. Rama Iyer, and Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission chairman Andrew Sheng.