

## **Siti Hasmah prays Najib won't harm Islam**

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**By Zulaikha Zulkifli**

Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, the wife of former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said she used her time in Mecca to pray for Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

With sadness in her voice, Siti Hasmah said she also prayed for the people while performing the umrah.

"I thought my husband and I would not make it (to Mecca), but alhamdulillah, God gave us time, longevity, health, and we made it.

"I prayed in front of the Kaabah for everyone's safety. As a mother, I also prayed for Najib, so that he doesn't do something that is not good for our religion, Islam," she said at a Mother's Day celebration in Kuala Lumpur today.

Siti Hasmah, however, did not elaborate further.

She did however express gratitude at being able to see Mecca again, albeit with blurry vision.

"I'm 88, my husband is 89. I did not think we (could) still perform the umrah. I did not expect it, because my vision is not so good anymore, honestly.

"That's why I wanted to go the Mecca to see the Masjidil Haram to see the Kaabah again with my weakening eyesight," she said.

The mother of seven was the guest of honour at the Mother's Day do, titled "An Evening with Siti Hasmah."

During the question and answer session, Siti Hasmah told of how Mahathir discouraged her from participating in politics.

"I'm not a politician and (when Mahathir was in power) he told me, I can be an Umno member, but I can't hold any posts or interfere with politics, because I was a doctor at the time.

"I did not complain to my husband. What is there to complain? I'm not a politician, and my husband, whatever happens in politics or government, when he comes home he doesn't tell me.

"Even when he resigned (as prime minister) he did not tell me. He did not consult me, he is smarter. It is frustrating at times," she said to laughter from the audience.

Besides taking questions from the audience, Siti Hasmah also entertained them, by performing a cover of the P Ramlee classic, "Getaran Jiwa" accompanied by a live band.

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