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Honorary doctorates for Dr M, wife

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MALACCA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, received honorary doctorates yesterday from Universiti Teknikal Malaysia, Melaka (UTeM) for their contributions to development of the nation.

Dr Mahathir received the Honorary Doctorate of Development and Technology Management from university chancellor Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob, the Malacca Yang Dipertua Negeri, at the convocation at the Durian Tunggal campus.

UTeM vice-chancellor Prof Dr Ahmad Yusoff Hassan said the award was in recognition of Dr Mahathir's dedication and hard work, for laying the road map for Vision 2020 and for the achievements of the nation during his 22 years of premiership.

"Dr Mahathir transformed the landscape of the country, and in the process helped in the setting up of high-technology industries such as Hicom, Proton and Telekom Malaysia.

"He had a great vision for the country, seen in the setting up of the Multimedia Super Corridor and Cyberjaya, besides his stress on introducing technical courses in local insti-



Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali with their honorary doctorates from Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka yesterday.

tutions of higher learning."

Dr Siti Hasmah's contributions were recognised with an Honorary Doctorate in Community Development for her role in the development of communities in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said the award was meaningful to him as he believed technological development was one of the coun-

try's most important agendas.

"I urge all those involved in the technological advancement of the country to redouble their efforts to transform the nation into a technology-driven country."

At the convocation, 1,591 graduates received their scrolls. Three people obtained their doctorates. Twenty-two

graduates received their master's while 1,336 received the bachelor's degree. Another 230 obtained diplomas.

Azira Abdul Rahman and Amrik Singh Phuman Singh received the Royal Award, while Amin Mohamed Sultan and Vigneswaran Ramu received the Chancellor's Award.