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'Immunisation will help check spread of diseases'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, expressed her disappointment with parents who refused to vaccinate their children.

She said parents should take responsibility to vaccinate their children as it would help prevent the spread of diseases.

"Immunisation is important as it is one of the ways to protect children from various diseases. The problem with some parents is that they expect their children's immune system to develop naturally and be able to fight the disease without the need for vaccination. But if the disease starts to spread, it will be too late.

"Parents should not take this matter lightly and I urge them to get their children immunised," she said in response to a recent trend where some parents were rejecting vaccination for their young ones.

She said this after receiving the Kiwanis Humanitarian Public Service Award at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here yesterday.

Dr Siti Hasmah was the first and only recipient of the international award, which was presented by Kiwanis International president Sue Petrisin.

The award is the highest recogni-

Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali receiving the Kiwanis Humanitarian Public Service Award from Kiwanis International president **Sue Petrisin** (centre) in Putrajaya yesterday. With them is Kiwanis Malaysia governor **Datuk Fatimah Saad**. Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail



tion bestowed on an individual for outstanding leadership and contributions towards addressing challenges facing society and the nation, and women and children in particular.

"We are proud to give this award to Siti Hasmah based on her sterling role in helping to alleviate a broad

range of problems relating to family planning, paediatrics, mental health, rural women and disadvantaged children for more than 30 years," said Petrisin.

Kiwanis Malaysia governor Datuk Fatimah Saad said Dr Siti Hasmah matched the high selection criteria

for the award as she was a role model to Malaysians in general and had made a difference to society.

Present were Dr Mahathir, former MCA president Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik and Kiwanis Down's Syndrome Foundation National Centre patron Toh Puan Ena Ling.