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Sultan Nazrin breaks with tradition, confers posthumous awards on six

KUALA KANCSAR: Breaking with tradition, the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzudin Shah, posthumously conferred awards on six people in recognition of their services to the country.

Family members who received the awards on behalf of their departed loved ones at an investiture in Istana Iskandariah here yesterday could not hide their mixed feelings of gratitude and sadness.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said the conferment of the Darjah Seri Paduka Cura Si Manja Kini (SPCM) on his late grandfather, Datuk Sir Onn Jaafar, showed the sincerity of the sultan in appreciating the contributions of the nation's forefathers.

"He died a poor man, since many people did not understand his struggles and sacrifices for unity and independence.

"However, in the present political landscape, where the politics of hatred and division rule, his struggle is still evergreen and relevant."

Hishammuddin said apart from the award, Sultan Nazrin's sincerity had touched his family.

"The appreciation has a deep meaning, not only to me, but to all of Onn's descendants."

He said the recognition motivated him to be consistent in his stand and struggle, although others might find it difficult to understand.

"History will determine whether



Sultan of Perak **Sultan Nazrin Muizzudin Shah** conferring the **Darjah Seri Paduka Cura Si Manja Kini**, which carries the title 'Datuk Seri', posthumously on **Datuk Sir Onn Jaafar**, who was represented by his grandson, Defence Minister **Datuk Seri Hishammudin Hussein**, at Istana Iskandariah in Kuala Kangsar yesterday. Pic by **Muhaizan Yahya**. (Inset) (Clockwise, from top left) Umno founder **Datuk Sir Onn Jaafar**, student activist and educationist **Aminuddin Baki**, nationalist and Islamic thinker **Burhanuddin Al-Helmy** and Universiti Malaya board of directors chairman **Tan Sri Arshad Ayub**.

what we do now is right and can be accepted by future generations," he said after the investiture.

During the ceremony, Sultan Nazrin also conferred the SPCM on Perak's first menteri besar, Datuk Panglima Bukit Gantang Abdul Wa-

hab Toh Muda Abdul Aziz, and the Darjah Seri Paduka Mahkota Perak (SPMP) on nationalist and Islamic thinker Dr Burhanuddin Al-Helmy, student activist and educationist Aminuddin Baki and Universiti Malaya board of directors chairman

Tan Sri Arshad Ayub.

Former Perak police chief, Tan Sri Khoo Chong Kong, who was shot dead by communist agents in Ipoh in 1975, received the Darjah Seri Panglima Taming Sari (SPTS).

Late deputy public prosecutor

Anthony Kevin Morais was conferred the Darjah Datuk Paduka Mahkota Perak (DPMP).

Datuk Richard Morais, who received the award on behalf of his brother, Kevin, said he felt proud and was moved by the award.

"I was contacted by palace officials about two weeks ago. On behalf of my family, I would like to thank the sultan and we are proud of the award."

He thanked the state government for the support his late brother received when he was serving in Perak.

Corporate figure Datuk Seri Mohd Azim Zabidi, who represented his uncle, Aminuddin, said the award had made his family proud, especially the deceased's widow, Noraini Abu Bakar, 88.

"My aunt is moved by the award, since next month will be the 50th year since her husband's demise," he said.

Aminuddin died on Dec 24, 1965.

Wahab was represented by his grandson, Toh Muda Azman Yeop Junior, while Burhanuddin was represented by his son, Dr Ahmad Shukry, and Datin Khoo Swee Kim received the award on behalf of her father, Khoo.

Both SPCM and SPMP carry the title "Datuk Serj", while the SPTS carries the title "Datuk Seri Panglima", and the DPMP carries the title "Datuk".