

RECOGNITION

Dr M, wife conferred honorary doctorates

NST-8/11/2019 B. 4

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, were conferred honorary doctorates by the National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage (Aswara) yesterday.

The prime minister received the Honorary Doctorate of Creative Arts (Arts and Culture Development) for his contributions developing and empowering arts, culture and heritage in the country, while Dr Siti Hasmah received the Honorary Doctorate of Creative Arts (Creative Arts Promotion) in recognition for her immense support as well as upholding the country's arts and performance industry.

Dr Mahathir and his wife received the honorary doctorates from Aswara's rector Associate Professor Sahar Sa'di Hashim during the academy's 15th convocation at Panggung Eksperimen here yesterday.

"Dr Mahathir was the icon responsible for realising the aspiration of the National Culture Congress to develop Panggung Negara.

"Construction of Panggung Negara on a 5.44 ha plot of land started in 1995. It was subsequently opened in Sept 15, 1999 by Dr Mahathir.

"The name Panggung Negara was later changed to Istana Budaya," said Sahar.