

# Dr Mahathir, Dr Siti Hasmah conferred Tun title

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri.** — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today conferred the Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara (S.M.N), the nation's highest award which carries the title Tun, shortly after stepping down as Prime Minister.

His wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, was conferred the Seri Setia Mahkota Malaysia (S.S.M), which also carries the title Tun.

The awards were bestowed by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin at Istana Negara, here, after Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi took his oath of office as Malaysia's fifth Prime Minister.

The swearing-in, which started at 3.05pm, was attended by Abdullah's wife, Datuk Seri Endon Mahmood, Cabinet Ministers, Menteris Besar and other dignitaries.

The S.M.N. award received by Dr Mahathir is the Darjah Yang Mulia Pangkuan Negara (First Class) and is confined to 25 recipients, excluding foreigners who receive the honorary

award.

It carries the title Toh Puan for the recipient's wife.

The S.S.M. award received by Dr Siti Hasmah is the Darjah Yang Mulia Setia Mahkota Malaysia (First Class), which is also confined to 25 recipients, excluding foreigners who are bestowed the honorary award.

Dr Mahathir was Prime Minister for 22 years.

He took over the post from Tun Hussein Onn after serving as Deputy Prime Minister.

He was sworn in as the country's fourth Prime Minister before then Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Ahmad Shah on July 16, 1981.



**NATION'S HIGHEST AWARD:** Dr Mahathir with the SMN award conferred by the King.

**EXEMPLARY FIRST LADY:** Dr Siti Hasmah with the SSM award which also carries the title Tun.

Tun Hussein, who died on May 29, 1990, received the S.M.N. in 1981 while the country's second Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, was conferred the award on Aug 31,

1959.

Others who have been conferred the S.S.M. include two former Deputy Prime Ministers, the late Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman in 1966 and

Tun Ghafar Baba in 1995.

Tun Abdul Razak's wife, Tun Rahah Mohamed Noah, was conferred the S.S.M. in 1976. — Bernama