



Siti Hasmah awarded Honorary Doctorate Unimas in Science *UNIVOLPH*

KOTA SAMARAHAN – The wife of the Prime Minister Datuk Amar Dr. Siti Hasmah bte Haji Mohd Ali was yesterday conferred the Honorary Doctorate in Science by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) in a special convocation held here yesterday.

She was presented with the award by the Head of the State, His Excellency Tun Datuk Patinggi Abang Haji Muhammad Sallahuddin, who is also the Unimas Chancellor.

The award was conferred in recognition of her contributions towards the medical and health development in the country. Among her accomplishments were the establishment of the Medical and Health Science faculty as well as Health and Medical Community institute in 1993 and 1994.

In her emotional speech after receiving the honorary doctorate, she attributed her success to her former teachers, colleagues, family and especially, her husband, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, whom she described as her 'tutor'.

Siti Hasmah started her medical career with King Edward VII's Medical College at the age of 21 in 1947 and at that time, she was the second Malay woman graduating with a medical degree.

She later worked as a trainee doctor in Kuala Lumpur General Hospital and on August 5, 1956, Siti Hasmah married with a fellow doctor, Mahathir, who at that time was working at the Alor Setar General Hospital.

Later, she was transferred to Alor Setar General Hospital where she worked for about ten years.

She also showed a keen interest in improving the rural health care, and her services had made her a popular personality.

She began to implement various programmes when she was appointed as the Kedah Utara health officer in 1965.

Among the programmes were malaria prevention, tuberculosis (TB) and leper, mother and child health care as well as the balance diet project.

Also present at the special convocation yesterday were the wife of the Chief Minister of Sarawak Datuk Amar Puan Sri (Dr) Hajjah Laila Taib and deputy chief minister Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr George Chan Hong Nam.



AN HONOUR ... Siti Hasmah receiving the scroll from Chancellor Tun Datuk Patinggi Abang Haji Mohammad Sallahuddin.

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