Duo with 80 years of service among medal recipients

Performance is the most important thing when we work with the government. Being at the forefront most of the time, we must always give our best service to the people.

Najir Mohammad Labboo, Loyalty Service Medal recipient

Geryl Ogilvy Ruekeith
By reporters@borneopost.com

KOTA SAMARAHAN: With 80 years of civil service between them, 59-year-olds Najir Mohammad Labboo and Shamsuddin Saliman’s loyalty to the state is definitely second to none.

It came as no surprise that the duo, who had served Public Works Department (PWD) and Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) respectively for 40 years, was among the 310 recipients of the state civil service ‘Loyalty Service Medal’ at a ceremony held at the civic centre here yesterday.

“Performance is the most important thing when we work with the government. Being at the forefront most of the time, we must always give our best service to the people,” Najir said in an advice to other government servants when met by reporters after receiving his medal. He retired four years ago.

Along with the other recipients, he received his medal from Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud. The event was also attended by State Secretary Datuk Amar Morshidi Ghanip and state Federal Secretary Datuk Mohd Yahaya Basimin.

Najir, who is a son of an Indian immigrant, had served PWD in Serian, Samarahan and Batu Lintang in various capacities including as pump attendant at the water treatment plant, road supervisor and in administrative posts.

Sungai Bijat-born Shamsuddin worked for 40 years, six months and 12 days before he retired last December. Stationed at his hometown Sri Aman as a mechanical operator, he said his passion to contribute to society had prompted him to work in the civil service.

On his take on the attitude that should be inculcated by today’s civil servants, the grandfather of five advised: “We must love our country and always be loyal to the government. Give the best of your service to your country.”

Before 1996, the ‘Loyalty Service Medal’ was known as ‘Long Service Medal’ when it was introduced in 1963, which replaced the older ‘Long Service Badge’ introduced by the Brooke administration in the 1950s.

The medal is awarded to serving or retired civil servants who have served for 20 consecutive years or 25 accumulative years, had shown excellent service, and endorsed by their respective department heads. Today, potential recipients must be free from Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission investigation and must have good disciplinary records.

On December 2, 2008, the medal was given a new look, with a different coloured ribbon for women recipients to differentiate it from those for men.

State Health Department provided the biggest number of recipients yesterday with 81, followed by Education Department with 66, Agriculture Department (37), Land and Survey (24), Samarahan Resident’s and District Office (22), Padawan Municipal Council (21) and PWD (19).

Other agencies included the Welfare Department (18), DID (10) and four each from Department of Civil Aviation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and Universiti Teknologi Mara.
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IMPORTANT RECOGNITION: 57-year-old DID personnel Tingum Ahu shows off his medal.
Prior to the award, the Iban from Sampun, Gerunggang twice received recognition for excellent service.

BIGGEST NUMBER: The Health Department provided the highest number of recipients with 81.

PATIENCE IS OF THE ESSENCE: Annie Mijet Dubi, 55, with 35 years of nursing experience, told reporters that the key to her long career was tolerance, patience and competence when treating hospital patients. She is currently based in Serian Hospital.

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