

## Toh Puan Rahah Golf Tournament

After PERTIWI was set up, members knew that without any effort, many activities will not take off as planned. Much attention was given in applying to the Government for assistance in 1973. In 1987, matters pertaining to women's organisations were handed over to HAWA (Department of Women Affairs), which was under the Prime Minister's Department. Currently, it is under the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development, now known as Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (KPWKM).

With many diverse projects, PERTIWI could not rely entirely on government assistance despite the increase in aid every year. Consequently, various efforts were made to look for donations. Aware of the importance for donations to be tax exempted, PERTIWI made this a priority. A memorandum was submitted to the Treasury, and with the help of Tan Sri Dato' Sallehuddin Mohamed (former Chief Secretary to the Malaysian Government, whose wife, Puan Sri Hafsah, was a PERTIWI member), tax exemption facilities were granted to PERTIWI in 1973, through the Government Gazette notification no. 2607/67. This greatly eased fundraising efforts and gave the fundraisers more confidence in seeking donations.

Launched in 1974, the Toh Puan Rahah Golf Tournament, a fundraising event, was inspired by Allahyarham Dato' Jamaluddin Abu Bakar, a well-known golfer, nationally and internationally. He had suggested to his wife, Datin Rahmah Abdul Hamid, also a golfer, that the easiest approach to obtain donations from men, especially avid golfers, was by holding a sponsored tournament. Toh Puan Rahah, PERTIWI's patron at that time, generously donated a challenge trophy to the winner. She also presented a beautiful silver trophy to the golfer who attained the highest amount of donations for the tournament. Each year PERTIWI would award a new trophy for the player who managed to bring in the highest amount of donation. The original Toh Puan Rahah Trophy is currently on display at the Tun Abdul Razak Memorial at Sri Taman, Kuala Lumpur.

The first golf tournament proved to be a success and was very well received by the golfers. PERTIWI highly appreciates the contributions of Allahyarham Tan Sri Yaacob Latiff, the former Mayor of Kuala Lumpur. As the Chairman of the Golf Tournament Organising Committee for many years, the event flourished and each tournament held was a tremendous success in its own special way.

The first golf tournament was held at the Royal Selangor Golf Club while subsequent tournaments were organised at the Subang National Golf Club. Each year PERTIWI would hold several tournaments at golf clubs in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. Competitions were also held at other places and in other states, such as Penang, Kedah (Alor Setar), Negeri Sembilan (Seremban), and at the Awana Genting Highlands. Among the regular tournament golfers were Dato' Mohd Tahir Rahim, Mr Taib Abdul Hamid, Dato' Ahmad Adam, Mr Khoo Boo Khean, Mr Hashim Abdullah and Mr Albakri Abdullah Udi. During the early years when the tournament was just newly introduced, a year-end dinner party, together with an award-giving ceremony, was held to celebrate the fundraising event.