

**PETRONAS**   
*Inventor's  
Award*

**Certificate Of Award**

This is to certify that

*Syed Nur Azman Syed Mustaffa*

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is presented with a Merit Award  
for the entry in

Category: *Invention*

Dated this 13th day of March 1991



**Tan Sri Datuk Azizan Zainul Abidin**  
President  
**PETRONAS**

# New Straits Times

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Cabinet approves recommendations for Malaysian participation

## Rebuilding of Kuwait: help for investors

By K.P. Waran

**KUALA LUMPUR, Wed.** — The Cabinet has approved a set of recommendations to be undertaken by the public and private sector to participate in the reconstruction of Kuwait.

These include plans to get local businessmen to supply building materials to contractors engaged in the reconstruction of the wealthy emirate.

The recommendations were proposed by the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department following the completion of its study on the impact of the Gulf War on the Malaysian economy.

The EPU will hold a meeting with the representatives of the various Government agencies at the end of the week to discuss specific implementation of the recommendations.

Director-General of the EPU Datuk Mohd Sheriff Mohd Kassim said the unit, which co-ordinated the study together with several other Government agencies, would now co-ordinate the implementation of these recommendations.

Yesterday, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Azli announced the setting up of a \$1 billion investment fund to help investors and businessmen obtain loans. The Treasury will work out details of the fund.

Datuk Mohd Sheriff was speaking to reporters after presenting "Excellent Service Awards" to 10 EPU employees today.

The implementation of the recommendations would be treated with urgency to ensure that negative effects of the Gulf War are overcome immediately without losing out on whatever opportunities following the war, he said.

Datuk Mohd Sheriff said another recommendation was to encourage Malaysian export credit facilities for primary commodities to more importers. Yet another recommendation calls for the review of the export credit re-financing scheme from the current 360 days to possibly a year.

This is to enable Middle Eastern countries more time to finance for their imports.

He added that Malaysian Trade Commissioners and Malaysian Export Promotion Centres would be collecting and disseminating information on possible new avenues and markets in the

Middle East for Malaysian businessmen.

He said Malaysian exporters could use this opportunity to penetrate the Middle Eastern market.

He stressed that Malaysia was fortunate that it was not severely affected by the Gulf War except for tourism and the export of palm oil and other commodities.

On the role of the EPU in guiding Malaysia towards developed nation status by the year 2020, Datuk Mohd Sheriff said the unit, being responsible for co-ordinating policies and programmes to have high-level economic activity, would study ways and means to industrial sector.

Among those who received the "Excellent Service Award" were three Grade A officers — Zulkifli Mohd Fadzil bin Akram, Mr Rabbil P. Royan and Mr K. Kanaratu. Four Grade C recipients are Cik Sarmah Haron, Cik Zarina Abdul Rahman, Puan Rokiah Johari and Puan Hamidah Noor Muhamad.

Three Grade D employees who received the awards were Enik Saikin Ariffin, Puan Muzalmah Abu Bakar and Cik Nurmahzab Abu Samah.



USM lecturer wins award for invention

Pass on tax cut benefits to buyers, says PM

## Pass on tax cut benefits to buyers, says PM

**KUALA LUMPUR, Wed.** — The Government's decision to abolish taxes on a wide variety of items would have the desired result if traders pass on these benefits to consumers, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Government's strategy to abolish taxes on products which are popular with locals and tourists was to increase the revenue of traders and to help develop the tourist trade.

If traders grab all these benefits for themselves, the prices of goods will not come down and this will not attract buyers to patronise these outlets, he said.

"I am glad that traders in Kuala Lumpur do not resort to such tactics," the Prime Minister said, adding that traders can maintain long-term benefits by taking reasonable profits.

Dr Mahathir stressed these points at the opening ceremony of the Lot 10 shopping complex in Bukit Bintang.

The Prime Minister said the mushrooming of shopping complexes was a clear indication that many Malaysians could afford to buy luxurious products.

He attributed this to the country's peace and stability which have helped the economy to grow.

He said the Government had opened its professional and services sectors to foreign investment, further development in the Federal capital pointing out that it was everybody's wish that Kuala Lumpur would reach the status of other renowned cities of the world.

On the new shopping complex, Dr Mahathir said, apart from its distinctive colour, Lot 10 was also exclusive with the sale of many brand name products.

He hoped that traders would not be tempted to hoard these goods against one another, but to make maximum use of their work of their

## Indian President calls for general election

**NEW DELHI, Wed.** — President Ramaswamy Venkatarman today ordered general elections in the world's most populous democracy, ending a week of political chaos.

He directed that a new Parliament meet on or before June 5, setting the scene for a May election for India's estimated 521 million voters.

Mr Venkatarman's office said he had ended the tenure of the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament), which was split between half-a-dozen major parties after inconclusive polls 16 months ago.

"He has dissolved the Lok Sabha," he said.

Prime Minister Chandrashekar told last Wednesday, telling Mr Venkatarman the only hope of find-

ing a stable Government was to call an election.

All political parties formally endorsed his call, although many politicians acknowledged in private that they feared losing their seats.

Mr Venkatarman was inundated with visitors seeking consent to try to revive the four-month-old dead Lok Sabha.

Mr Venkatarman's tiny Janata Dal (Socialist) party was kept in power by Mr Rajiv Gandhi's much bigger Congress party.

The election dates will be announced later, either by Mr Shekhar or the Election Commission.

An election will cost millions of dollars and vast amounts of petrol. India is short of both.

It will also raise two issues, caste and religion, which often spark riotous and few political analysts expect it to produce a majority Government.

The minority National Front Government disbanded last November when Mr Shekhar split its core vote, the Janata Dal.

The political break-up came amid riots over Mr Shekhar's policies of favouring low caste Hindus and devaluing the Muslim minority.

Mr Singh, now allied with left-wing parties, hopes to garner Muslim and caste Hindu votes at polls.

The Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party hopes to boost its fortunes among an electorate polarised by last year's religious riots.

## USM lecturer wins award for invention

**UNIVERSITI SAINS Malaysia** lecturer Dr Syed Nur Azman Syed Mustafa with Soflo — his award-winning invention that reduces toxic gas emission by motor vehicles.

The invention by the 35-year-old lecturer in the university's school of chemical sciences won one of the four Petronas Inventors merit awards.

"You can say it is user-friendly," said the lecturer, after receiving \$5,000 from Petronas president Tan Sri Azizain Zainul Abidin yesterday.

The invention reduces the amount of unburnt hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, and carbon monoxide from gas emission.

The award was launched in June last year to stimulate creative ideas among Malaysians.

Dr Syed Nur Azman Syed Mustafa is a lecturer in the school of chemical sciences at the University of Science, Malaysia.

He said the invention was developed in his laboratory at the university.

The award was presented to him by Petronas president Tan Sri Azizain Zainul Abidin yesterday.

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