

# A VIP surprise on north- bound train

EST 26 JUN 1986

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Passengers on a train bound for Butterworth today had a pleasant surprise when one of their fellow-passengers turned out to be the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad boarded the north-bound Ekspres Sinaran Petang, ESP 8, for Bukit Mertajam and Bagan Serai at 2.40pm. He was accompanied by Malayan Railway (KTM) general manager Datuk Ahmad Badri Mohamed Basir and other senior KTM officials.

An extra coach, known as the reserved saloon, which has a full range of facilities for the comfort of VIP passengers, was added to the train.

Dr Mahathir also visited the other coaches of the train and greeted many of the 220 passengers.

Among those who turned up at the railway station to see him off was Transport Minister Datuk Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Before boarding the train, Dr Mahathir was taken on a brief tour of the station, which has been given a face-lift at a cost of \$40 million.

He was pleased with the improvements made to the station.

The renovation work began last November and will be completed next month. Platform One has been re-opened and passengers can wait for their trains in comfort at the air-conditioned waiting lounge.

A computerised arrival and departure board, similar to those used in airports, has been added while an inquiry counter has been set up for the convenience of the public