

B E335 AAE

MAHATHIR-RETURN (PIX) (CORRECTED REPETITION)

08

SUBANG, APRIL 3 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD RETURNED HOME THIS EVENING TO AN EMOTIONAL WELCOME BY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WAITING AT TERMINAL TWO OF THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO APPEARED WELL COULD NOT HOLD BACK HIS TEARS WHILE BRIEFLY ADDRESSING THE CROWD. HE HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY ON MARCH 12 FOR A THREE-WEEK HOLIDAY ABROAD FOLLOWING HIS CORONARY BY-PASS OPERATION ON JAN 24.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASHAH ARRIVED AT ABOUT 6.28PM AT TERMINAL ONE AND WERE BROUGHT TO TERMINAL TWO BY HIS OFFICIAL CAR.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SHAFAR BABA, UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT, UMNO YOUTH CHIEF SERI MAJIB TUN RAZAK AND WANITA UMNO HEAD DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ WERE AMONG THOSE WHO GREETED AND ACCOMPANIED THEM TO TERMINAL TWO.

THEY WALKED ALONG A 50M LONG RED CARPET TO A SPECIALLY ERECTED Dais, TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF A KOMPANG WELCOME. -- MORE
2103MST 03 04 89

B E337 AAE

MAHATHIR-RETURN 2 SUBANG

THE DOA SELAMAT WAS READ OUT BY UMNO YOUTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ZUBIR EMBONG.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IN HIS SHORT ADDRESS OF ABOUT THREE MINUTES SAID HE WAS THANKFUL TO BE HOME AFTER BEING AWAY FOR THREE WEEKS.

+I NOW FEEL WELL AFTER THE PRAYERS AND SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED, TO THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE BY THE CROWD.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE INITIALLY DID NOT AGREE TO HAVING THE GATHERING TO WELCOME HIM.

+I DID NOT AGREE AT FIRST BECAUSE I FEARED IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE A MANIFESTATION OF A PERSONALITY CULT ... BUT I CHANGED MY MIND ... BECAUSE WHEN I WAS SICK I WAS UNABLE TO SEE YOU ALL,+ HE SAID. DURING THAT EMOTION-CHARGED MOMENT, TEARS WERE SEEN FALLING DOWN HIS FACE AND HE HAD DIFFICULTY CONTINUING WITH HIS SPEECH.

+ALHAMDULLILLAH (THANKS TO ALLAH) ... I HAVE NOW RECOVERED AND I HOPE TO RESUME WORK TOMORROW,+ HE ADDED, AND EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO ALLAH FOR HIS SPEEDY RECOVERY.

THE PRIME MINISTER THANKED ALL THOSE WHO EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT AND PRAYED FOR HIS SPEEDY RECOVERY. -- MORE
2109MST 03 04 89

0736

B E360 AAE

MAHATHIR-RETURN 3 SUBANG

AS SOON AS DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DESCENDED FROM THE Dais, HE WAS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO +SALAM+ (CLASP THE HAND IN GREETING) WITH HIM.

AS WAS HIS USUAL HABIT, HE SMILED AND SALAM WITH THOSE WHO EXTENDED THEIR HANDS TO HIM DESPITE THEM SOMETIMES HAMPERING HIS PROGRESS TO HIS CAR.

EARLIER, MINISTERS, DEPUTY MINISTERS, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES AND MENTERIS BESAR LINED UP ALONG THE RED CARPET TO SALAM WITH HIM AND HIS WIFE.

BANNERS CARRYING MESSAGES INCLUDING +DR M BAPA PERPADUAN MELAYU+ (DR M THE FATHER OF MALAY UNITY) AND +ALLAH LANJUTKAN USIA PEMIMPIN KAMI+ (ALLAH GRANT OUR LEADER LONG LIFE) WERE HELD UP BY MEMBERS OF THE UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE LEFT FOR LONDON ON MARCH 12. THEY (LSD) VISITED SPAIN AND MOROCCO. -- BERNAMA
2120MST 03 04 89