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Dr M, Siti Hasmah break fast with children from orphanages

EAGER FOR THEIR TURN... Children from various orphanages in the Federal Territory queuing up to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali before breaking fast at the Tabung Haji building in Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.

The function was organised by the Persatuan Kebajikan Anak-anak Yatim Islam of the Federal Territory.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah shook hands and spoke briefly with all the children who were present before breaking fast with them.

Twenty-five of the orphans received RM140 "duit raya" each from Dr Siti Hasmah. The money was donated by various organisations and individuals.

The association's deputy president Tan Sri Mohd Amin Osman said under the Hari Raya aid scheme, established in March 1981, RM875,000 had been given out to orphans. This year RM84,000 was given to 600 orphans.

At the function, Dr Mahathir, on behalf of the association, received cheques for donations from an individual and two associations.

Presenting a cheque to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti) was its welfare committee chairperson, Toh Puan Dr Aishah Ong. The other cheque was from the Baitulmal.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said Muslims in the country should discard the notion that they should only help Muslims.

"In time of need, Muslims should also assist non-Muslims," he said, adding that Muslims had gladly accepted aid from non-Muslims during hardship and so should not adopt the attitude that non-Muslims did not need help.

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