

13 MAR 1997

Mahathir-Visit

MAHATHIR MEETS JOHOR UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE

JOHOR BA HARU, March 13 (Bernama) -- Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, who is on a two-day visit to the state, this morning held an hour-long closed door meeting with Johor Umno Liaison Committee at Hotel Sofitel, near here.

Present were Johor Umno Liaison Chief Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman who is Johor Menteri Besar and his deputy, Datuk Syed Hamid Albar who is Defence Minister.

Also present were liaison committee members including Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin who is Youth and Sports Minister and Datuk Mohamed Rahmat who is Information Minister.

Earlier, some 300 Johor Umno members held a peaceful demonstration at the Sultan Ismail International Airport in Senai, carrying banners which read among others "Lee Kuan Yew Nyanyuk".

The Umno members have taken exception to the remark by Lee, Singapore Senior Minister and former Prime Minister, that Johor is a place "notorious for shootings, muggings and car-jackings."

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, arrived this morning. He was met on arrival at the airport by Abdul Ghani.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah were later entertained to a luncheon at Nam Heng Plantation's resthouse, situated beside Sungai Johor, some 50km from here.

This was followed by a briefing on the unit trust, Amanah Saham Johor (ASJ) and presentation of a documentary entitled "The Jewels of Johor" by the Institut Sultan Iskandar (ISI).

The video highlights places of interest and historical significance in Johor as well as those of higher market value for development especially for tourism purposes.

Also present were Abdul Ghani, Syed Hamid, Deputy Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk S. Subramaniam as well as State Executive Councillors.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah was later taken on a boat tour of the river to Sevana Resort for another function. They will spend the night there. -- BERNAMA

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