

01 OCT 1997

PM-Cheque

PM MEETS LEADERS OF CHILEAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY

By: K.C.Leong

SANTIAGO, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad met leaders of the small Muslim community in Chile during a brief visit to the Malaysian embassy here.

He presented a cheque for four million pesos (about RM32,000) to Taufick Rumie, the president of the Muslim Society of Chile, for the improvement of the Santiago mosque, which was opened by the Yang dipertuan Aong during his state visit to Chile in 1995. The cheque is a donation from the Malaysian government.

The prime minister is on a three-day official visit to Chile, which has about 4,000 Muslims. There are about 300 Muslim families in Santiago.

During the discussions between Dr Mahathir and the Muslim Society officials, the prime minister had the benefit of a high-powered translator in the person of Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, a fluent Arabic speaker.

Dr Mahathir also had tea with Ambassador Cik Lily Zachariah and her officers and staff at the embassy which is located in the Edificio Malaysia, owned by the Malaysia South-South Corporation Berhad (MASSCORP).

He also visited the local representative office of Kumpulan Guthrie Bhd located in the same building and was briefed on the company's Chilean operations by Guthrie Executive Director Ghazali Awang.

This morning, Dr Mahathir visited the booth of Proton Berhad which was exhibiting its Putra model at a business show held in conjunction with the 12th general meeting of the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council (PECC) here.

The prime minister, who had attended the opening of the meeting by Chilean President Eduardo Frei, is a keynote speaker at the meeting.

Proton, which entered the Chilean market in 1994, hopes to raise its sales volume in this country from about 70 units a month to about 100 a month with the introduction of the Putra and the 1.3 litre model of the Wira.

Currently it only imports the completely built up 1.5 and 1.6 litre Wira models here. -- BERNAMA

KCL AAM