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Perak gives lunch treat to editorial team

IPOH, Sun. - The State Government today hosted lunch for participants of the Commonwealth Editors' Forum who stopped here briefly en route to Kuala Lumpur for the Commonwealth Press Union's biennial conference which begins tomorrow.

The delegation of 65 editors from 36 Commonwealth countries led by CPU executive director Mark Robinson was greeted by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib at the Casuarina Parkroyal Hotel.

Also present were CPU chairman (Malaysia section) Datuk A. Kadir Jasin, who is New Straits Times Press group editor-in-chief, New Straits Times Sdn Bhd assistant group editor Zainon Ahmad and cartoonist Datuk Mohamed Noor Khalid who is popularly known as Lat.

The State bureau chiefs of major newspaper organisations and news agencies were also on hand to welcome the guests.

The delegates had just completed a three-day forum at Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang. The forum was a precursor to the CPU's biennial conference.

In his welcoming speech, Ramli outlined a brief history of Perak.

Ramli said Perak was the first State to rebel against the British colonial rule.

He said Perak, with a population of about 2.3 million, was famous for its tin mines and, at the height of the tin mining industry in the early 80s, there were about 1,000 active mines. Now 30 mines are still being worked on with fewer than 100 workers.

More than 200 editors and journalists will be attending the four-day CPU biennial conference.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver the keynote address.

Other speakers include Commonwealth secretary-general Chief Emeka Anyaoku, New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Don McKinnon, former Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten and former British representative to the United Nations Sir David Hannay.

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