

30 AUG 1998

Mahathir-Convoy

PM LEADS PROTON CAR CONVOY INTO BOOK OF RECORDS

PULAU PINANG, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today led a convoy of 2,713 Proton cars, the longest ever, to cross the Penang Bridge here.

The event, which made into the Malaysia Book of Records for being the longest convoy of cars to cross the 13-kilometre bridge, started at 5.20pm from the bridge's toll plaza and was flagged off by Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

Koh and his wife, Puan Sri Chui Kah Peng later joined the convoy with Dr Mahathir in the lead, driving a Proton Wira which took part in the North Pole expedition early this year.

In the same car with the Prime Minister were DRB-Hicom Group chairman Tan Sri Mohd Saleh Sulong and Edaran Otomobil Nasional Berhad (EON) managing director Datuk Adzmi Abdul Wahab.

Close behind was the car driven by the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali with Saleh's wife Puan Sri Akmal Abdul Salam and Azmi's wife Datin Ramlah Hashim as passengers.

The third car in the convoy, which the organisers also hoped to be included in the Guinness Book of World Records, was driven by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Other cabinet ministers taking part in the event which was organised in conjunction with the 41st National Day celebrations, were Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

Pulau Pinang is the centre of this year's national-level celebrations.

The last car to be flagged off was at 6.50pm. Also sharing the historic moment were orphans from Rumah Tunas Harapan Tengku Ampuan Rahimah from Kuala Selangor.

Before the start, the participants also read a pledge of support to Dr Mahathir, expressing the people's confidence in his efforts to overcome the country's economic downturn.

The drive ended at Shangri-La Hotel in Georgetown where Saleh presented commemorative plaques to Dr Mahathir and Anwar as well as their wives.

-- BERNAMA

AHM SA ABG