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Mahathir-Hari Raya

THOUSANDS TURN UP AT SRI PERDANA TO WISH DR MAHATHIR SELAMAT HARI RAYA

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Nearly 10,000 people turned up at Sri Perdana today to show their support and wish Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali a "Selamat Hari Raya".

While many Malaysians drove to the Prime Minister's official residence for the Hari Raya open house, many foreigners, mostly tourists, came in bus loads. Some waited as early as 7.30am to meet Dr Mahathir and Siti Hasmah.

Among the first to wish Dr Mahathir and Siti Hasmah "Selamat Hari Raya" were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife Datin Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Mahathir said he was overwhelmed by the large turnout and expression of support for him and the government.

"I am overwhelmed as many who came today apart from wishing me Selamat Hari Raya also expressed their support and said they were behind me and so on."

"Their statement of support is for the country's leadership," he added.

Dr Mahathir said many of the foreigners at his open house were from Australia, Singapore and the Middle East.

"Some had specially flown in from Australia and Singapore," the Prime Minister said.

A Singaporean couple known only as "the Tans" told Bernama that they drove up "straight to Sri Perdana" to express their support and to wish the Prime Minister and his wife "Selamat Hari Raya."

"We adore your prime minister," said Tan.

Dr Mahathir and Siti Hasmah also received a large Hari Raya card from the Bosnian children residing in Malaysia.

Several Cabinet ministers, deputy ministers and Barisan Nasional component party leaders as well as senior government officials also called on the Prime Minister.

The MCA team was led by its president and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik. --BERNAMA

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