

16 FEB 1999

Rabbit-Roundup

CHINESE COMMUNITY USHERS IN YEAR OF THE RABBIT WITH GREAT HOPE

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- The Chinese community today ushered in the Year of the Rabbit with great hope that the new year will bring good fortune to Malaysia and that efforts to lift it from the economic turmoil will be fruitful.

In Kuala Lumpur, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Abdullah's wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood visited the open house held by the MCA and the Gerakan party.

They were received at the MCA open house at Dewan Lee San Choon, Wisma MCA, in Jalan Ampang here by MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and his wife Datin Seri Ena Ling.

The Prime Minister and the other dignitaries were greeted by Chinese cultural dancers performing to the tune of Malay songs.

The Prime Minister, Dr Siti Hasmah, Abdullah and Endon also called at the Gerakan open house at Wisma PGRM in Cheras.

They later adjourned for the "Rabbit" lunch hosted by the Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Datuk Law Heing Ding at a hotel here.

In SEREMBAN, some 3,000 people visited the Negeri Sembilan MCA open house at the Dewan Majlis Perbandaran Seremban.

Among the dignitaries were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad and his wife Puan Sri Hazizah Tumin.

Mohd Isa in his speech at the open house urged the people to continue supporting Dr Mahathir as the country's leader and to maintain peace and national stability.

They should back Dr Mahathir's efforts to bring about economic recovery and developed nation status for Malaysia, he said.

In KOTA BAHARU, Kota Lama Assemblyman Leong Su Siang held open house at his residence in Jalan Sri Cemerlang.

In IPOH, members of the Chinese Community snapped up "Limau Tambun" which was selling at RM16 each compared to RM5 in normal days.

They also bought mandarin oranges at RM18 per crate compared to RM25 in previous years.

Primary Industries Minister and Gerakan party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik will host open house at Pantai Remis tomorrow and the Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce at its premises in Jalan Tun Sambanthan in Ipoh.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad was among more than 2,000 people who called at the open house of State Executive Councillor for the Environment, Health and Consumer Affairs Wong Foon at Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman.

In KANGAR, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and his wife Datin Seri Shamsiah Mohd Yassin were among the large number of people who visited the open house of State Executive Councillor Khor Liang Tee and that of Perlis MCA Chairman Loh Yoon Foo.

In ALOR SETAR, the Kedah MCA will hold open house at the Dewan Sekolah Menengah Keat Hwa on Saturday and the Gerakan party at the Dewan Kang Har Tong also on Saturday.

In PULAU PINANG, more than 10,000 people called at the open house of Chief Minister Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon in Jalan Macalister.

The Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir and Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar were among the dignitaries present.

Hamdan and the other dignitaries also attended the open house of the president of the Pulau Pinang Municipal Council Dr Teng Hock Nan in Jalan Park.

-- BERNAMA

TM AAM