

02/07/1999

Farmers out in full force to greet special visitor

KEPALA BATAS, Thurs. - The Prime Minister today took time off from his busy schedule to visit 68 farmers at an integrated vegetable farming programme in Kampung Lembah Raja in Pinang Tunggul near here.

Accompanying Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad were his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

Dr Mahathir visited the 74-hectare vegetable farm operated by 48 Chinese and 20 Malay farmers.

The VIP visitors also had a taste of the farmers' produce and local fruits during a tea reception.

Almost all the 1,000 villagers turned up to meet Dr Mahathir who is in Penang for a two-day working visit.

Dr Mahathir had arrived at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Butterworth about 8.40am.

On hand to welcome him were Abdullah, who is also Penang Umno liaison committee chairman, Koh, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat.

State executive councillors, assemblymen and their wives were among the 400 BN supporters present to welcome him.

Upon arrival, Dr Mahathir chaired a three-hour closed-door meeting with members of the State Umno liaison committee, committee members of all 11 State Umno divisions as well as State Umno Youth and Wanita heads at the Penang Golf Resort in Bertam.

The Prime Minister was joined at lunch by leaders of the local BN component parties at the resort.

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