

Penang advised to preserve rich heritage

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PENANG, Sun. — After a brief tour of the island and a sumptuous meal of *nasi kandar*, the Prime Minister gave this advice to Penang: preserve the rich culture, keep the beaches clean and avoid turning it into a garbage heap.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahafhir Mohamad could not help but notice the improvement in cleanliness though he spotted some discarded plastic bottles while taking a morning walk along the beach.

"I suppose they were swept in by the waves," he said after a two-hour tour of the island's tourist belt. "But, we must maintain the cleanliness of the beach all the same. This cannot be done every three days or once a day... you have to keep your sweeper in atten-

dance, almost."

Dr Mahathir commended the State for its heritage conservation, especially in maintaining Georgetown's inner city. He singled out the conversion of Lebuah Campbell into a pedestrian mall as "attractive".

"I hope similar projects in revitalising Penang's heritage will continue," he said after a State Government-hosted *nasi kandar* lunch at Hotel 1926.

The Prime Minister and Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali earlier toured the island with Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, his deputy Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya, their spouses and other dignitaries.

Beginning with the Teluk Bahang Dam, the couple then feasted

on durians and other fruits at the Tropical Fruit Farm before making their way to the city.

One of Georgetown's latest heritage products introduced to the Prime Minister was "The Garage" at Lebuah Farquhar — a former automobile workshop re-developed into speciality shops and eateries.

Georgetown's inner city was identified as one of six sites Malaysia intends to nominate to the prestigious World Heritage List.

Asked if he noted an improvement in cleanliness in Penang, which he once described as the "garbage dump of the Orient", Dr Mahathir said it was not easy for the authorities to keep the place clean if the public did not care for the environment.