

29 JUN 2000

Bakti-Children

BAKTI FETES DISABLED CHILDREN AT PM'S RESIDENCE

PUTRAJAYA, June 29 (Bernama) -- Some 250 orphans and handicapped children were today feted by the Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti) at the Prime Minister's official residence, Seri Perdana, here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also graced the Bakti Children's Day celebration where the special children were entertained by several performers and served a variety of food.

Apart from a magic show, the children were also entertained by the comic group "Senario" and members of the Golden Kids Club.

The Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who is also Bakti president, said in her speech that the association spent RM4 million during the 1999/2000 financial year on welfare programmes besides providing education subsidies to poor children and assistance to fire and natural disaster victims.

"We can be proud that to a certain extent we managed to change the livelihood of those we have assisted. There are orphans and poor students who had received the Bakti education subsidy who succeeded in pursuing higher education in colleges and universities," she said.

Many handicapped people as well as the sick had received assistance for treatment and artificial limbs from Bakti.

"The Bakti Children's Day is one of the major activities carried out every year. At these functions we share the joyous occasion with the children to show our sensitivity towards their welfare," she said.

She urged parents with handicapped children to continue to guide and assist them without losing hope as these children had special peculiarities and potential.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah later presented gifts in the form of school bags, stationery and toys to all the children feted.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AO