

16 JUL 2000

Mahathir-Mathew

DR MAHATHIR MEETS FALLEN HERO MATHEW'S FAMILY

KUCHING, July 16 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister today met members of the late Mathew anak Medan, a member of the Special Force, killed while being held hostage by a group of criminals in Sauk, Perak, last week.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who was accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali spent some time with the late Mathew's father Medan anak Nunjing, 61, and mother Ladun anak Ngumbang, 60, at the State Assembly Building before adjourning for an all community luncheon held in conjunction with his three-day official visit to Sarawak.

The Prime Minister told Mathew's parents that the country was very grateful to the family which is from Nanga Tada, Kanowit, in Sarikei Division.

The nation was grateful to the family for allowing Mathew to join the military and for enduring the tragedy of the death of this warrior in the course of the defence of the nation against threats from the enemy, the Prime Minister said.

An emotional Prime Minister said no effort would now restore Mathew to his parents and he expressed the hope that they would take courage and be patient in the face of this tragedy.

Medan expressed his hope to the Prime Minister that his son's killer or killers would be punished according to the law.

He also made a request to the Prime Minister that he be allowed to see his son's killer or killers.

The Prime Minister also handed over a personal donation to the family of the late Mathew.

Dr Siti Hasmah in her capacity as President of Bakti (Welfare Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers) presented RM5,000 to the family.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud also made a personal donation. The Chief Minister's wife Puan Sri Laila Taib donated RM5,000 to the family from the Association of Ministers and Assistant Ministers of Sarawak (Sabati). The Dayak Cultural Association also handed over RM7,000.

--BERNAMA

MT AAM