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PM plays host to 250 children

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently presented 250 less fortunate children with schoolbags during a tea party.

The children were from 14 homes for orphans, the disabled and less fortunate.

They were treated to tea with the Prime Minister and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya.

The garden party was organised by Bakti, the charity organisation of the wives of Ministers and deputy Ministers, to celebrate Children's Day.

The children were treated to a spread of cakes, fruits, satay and Kentucky Fried Chicken while being entertained by a magician, comedy group Senario and the Golden Kids Club.

Besides the schoolbags, the children also left laden with balloons twisted into animal shapes.

Dr Mahathir also thrilled the Golden Kids Club by giving them a short "interview" where he spoke of the need to prepare for globalisation.

In her speech, Dr Siti Hasmah said Bakti found satisfaction in helping those who needed it. In its 1999/2000 financial year, it had spent RM4 million on welfare programmes.

"Children's Day is a major activity for Bakti every year. The members of Bakti are women and mothers. We know the feelings of children who need love and care."

Dr Siti Hasmah said Bakti was awaiting the completion of Kompleks Penyayang Bakti, Sungai Buloh, in August to help orphans, the elderly and single mothers.

The children were from the Pure Life Society, Tunku Budriah orphanage, Rumah Bakti in Ulu Kelang, Damai Kuang Home in Rawang, Tan Sri Hamid Khan's Boys Home in Serendah, Selangor and Federal Territory Disabled Children's Society, Tasputra Perkim, Titian Murni in Ulu Selangor, Kiwanis Down Syndrome Association, Taman Megah Disabled Children's Home, Spastic Children's Association, Sayangku Home in Kuala Langat and Sekolah Kebangsaan Bandar Sunway's special children's class.

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