

16 JULY 2001

DR M CHAIRS PRE-COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE START OF DEWAN RAKYAT SESSION

KUALA LUMPUR, July 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad this morning chaired the pre-council meeting before the start of the Dewan Rakyat session today.

The 8.30am meeting, which lasted for about an hour, was attended by Barisan Nasional (BN) Members of Parliament and senators.

After the meeting, the Backbenchers' Club (BBC) hosted a reception to Dr Mahathir to mark his 20th year as Prime Minister. Religious Adviser to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Othman read the doa selamat.

Dr Mahathir cut the "pulut kuning" (yellow glutinous rice) provided by the BBC at the simple but meaningful ceremony. Cabinet ministers were also present.

Several MPs shook hands and congratulated Dr Mahathir for his exemplary service.

Effects of the US economic slowdown on the country and proposed domestic fare hike by Malaysia Airlines (MAS) were among the matters discussed at the pre-council meeting.

-- BERNAMA

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