

30 NOV 2001  
Mahathir-House  
DR M WALKS DOWN MEMORY LANE

ALOR SETAR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- "This is the place where I used to have my roti canai," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad pointed at the kitchen of a house at No 18, Jalan Kilang Ais, here.

Dr Mahathir visited the house where he was born on Dec 20, 1925. The house is now known as "Rumah Kelahiran Mahathir Mohamad" (The House Where Dr Mahathir Was Born).

He spent about an hour visiting the verandah, hall, bedroom and kitchen of the wooden and nipah-roofed house and the newly built complex adjacent to the house known as "Kompleks Kelahiran Mahathir Mohamad" which also houses an auditorium, office and exhibition hall.

Dr Mahathir spent his childhood days in this house.

The house was restored and preserved by the National Archives. Belongings of Dr Mahathir and that of his family like bed, cupboard, table, dressing table, chair and kitchenware are being kept there.

As Dr Mahathir was about to leave the house, he took everyone by surprise by sitting on the railing of the verandah.

"This is my favourite spot. I used to sit on the railing of the verandah," he told reporters later when asked about the visit.

Dr Mahathir said he felt nostalgic coming back to his ancestral home.

"I looked at the pictures when I was young," he said.

The house built in 1900 was bought by Dr Mahathir's father, Mohamad Iskandar.

Dr Mahathir said he visited the house frequently even after becoming Prime Minister.

Also present were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain.

Dr Mahathir also shopped at Pekan Rabu Complex. He bought two songkoks, a pair of leather slippers and buttons for the Malay baju at Kedai Songkok Sardi Dahar while Dr Siti Hasmah bought a scarf from the adjacent shop Melati Niaga.

He then proceeded to the Pekan Rabu Holdings Sdn Bhd office for a short briefing by Pekan Rabu Cooperative Chairman Azmi Shahab on the development of the Pekan Rabu complex which is being renovated.

He spent about 40 minutes before leaving the complex to open the Albukhary Islamic Complex in Alor Malai here.

Later, Dr Mahathir visited the Ramadhan bazaar and bought nasi tomato, nasi kerabu, pulut udang, kuih baulu, kerabu emping and kuih meniram for breaking of the fast.

-- BERNAMA  
MNH JM TS