

14 NOV 2001

Deepavali-Govt

DR MAHATHIR, DR SITI HASMAH AT "MALAYSIA DEEPAVALI OPEN HOUSE"

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah were among several dignitaries who attended the "Malaysia Deepavali Open House" at the Istana Budaya in Jalan Tun Razak here this evening.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Senator Datuk M.Kayveas and foreign diplomats were also present at the open house organised by the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry.

Speaking to reporters, Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said the open house was part of the Federal Government's policy to observe the country's six main celebrations as national festivals from this year.

The celebrations are Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Pesta Keamatan, Hari Gawai, Chinese New Year, Christmas and Deepavali.

"The celebrations have been great..... and we notice that this celebration in all truth has become a national event," he said.

He said the "Malaysia Hari Raya Open House" would be held at the residence of Johor Menteri Besar, Saujana, in Johor Baharu next month.

The Malaysia Christmas Open House would also be held at the Istana Budaya here next month.

-- BERNAMA

NM AFY AAM