

04 FEB 2001

Open House

NATIONAL OPEN HOUSE ATTRACTS A CROWD OF 40,000

PENANG, Feb 4 (Bernama) -- Some 40,000 people, locals and foreigners, descended upon Lebuah Armenia here tonight to be together with the country's leaders in experiencing the first-ever national open house in conjunction with Chinese New Year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood were present.

Also present were Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, his deputy Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen and Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid.

Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain and Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim also attended the function.

The national open house was organised by the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry with the cooperation of the Penang state government and the Penang Clans Youth Association Council.

Singer Elaine Kang, accompanied by the Penang Symphony Orchestra, entertained the crowd.

The Kon Seng Keng group from Muar, Johor, put up a lion dance performance and an Istana Budaya, Kuala Lumpur, troupe a cultural show.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir received donations on behalf of five welfare institutions -- Kepala Batas Bakti orphanage, Salvatian Army, Penang orphanage, Penang Child Protection Centre and Ramakrishna orphanage.

Dr Mahathir later toured the Acheen Mosque in Lebuah Acheh, Yap temple, Khoo Kongsi, Cheah Kongsi and the Dr Sun Yat Sen memorial all in Lebuah Armenia.

-- BERNAMA

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