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### Nostalgic homecoming for Dr Mahathir

ALOR STAR, Sat. - 18, Lorong Kilang Ais, off Jalan Pegawai, in Seberang Perak has seen thousands of visitors walking in and leaving in awe.

However, of all the visitors the house - Rumah Kelahiran Mahathir - has accommodated in its 101-year history none has a bond with it like the man himself.

For it was in the attap-roofed wooden Kampung house that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was born on Dec 20, 1925.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir returned home again.

And what a nostalgic homecoming it proved to be.

The Prime Minister could hardly contain his joy reminiscing about the good times he had growing up and staying there.

"That's where I used to eat roti-canai, And this is where I used to sit. This was my favourite spot."

Such was the running narrative he gave to those who accompanied him to the house. They included his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and other VIPs.

Dr Mahathir spent almost an hour at the house when he returned here yesterday to do some Hari Raya shopping at Pekan Rabu and also officiate at the Al-Bukhary Kompleks at Jalan Langgar.

Before leaving his house, the Prime Minister shocked those present by hopping onto the railing of the verandah to sit.

"That's where I always sat when I was at home entertaining my friends," he explained before posing for photographs.

The house, built in 1900 and bought by Dr Mahathir's father, was restored by the National Archives of Malaysia some years back. It houses pictures of the Prime Minister and things Dr Mahathir owned when he was young.

Thousands of people have visited the house, which is open to the public from 10am to 5pm daily.

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