

PM takes a 'semi double-decker' bus ride

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ALOR STAR, Thurs. Unlike Datuk Seri Dr 'Mahathir Mohamad's previous visits here where he would be chauffeured to his appointment in a limousine, the Prime Minister today arrived at the Alor Star airport and then travelled in a "semi double-decker" bus.

Known as the NiCE 2, the 36-passenger capacity coach ferried Dr Mahathir and his entourage from the Sultan Abdul Halim airport at Kepala.Batas here to Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Pulau Nyior in Jitra.

Dr Mahathir was scheduled to officiate the Kubang Pasu Umno

division's annual delegates meeting at the school this morning.

The NiCE 2 coach is owned by Park May Berhad, the company that operates the Plusliner and NiCE executive express bus service.

Plusliner general manager Chan Keong Meng said the Prime Minister's ride in the bus today was a special preview of the NiCE 2 service which the company will introduce to the public in July.

Park May managing director Mohamad Fakhri Abdul Rashid accompanied the Prime Minister on the ride.

The routes of NiCE 2 are being finalised and Mohamad Fakhri said the service would be introduced with between five and 10 coaches.

Chan said the locally-assembled luxury coach can accommodate 30 passengers.

Park May was appointed in 1995 to lead one of the two consortia for express bus operations along the North South Expressway, which is represented by the budget Plusliner coaches and the NiCE service.

Currently, the company operates a fleet of 81 Plusliner express coaches and 30 NiCE executive coaches.