

02 MAY 2002  
Mahathir-NiCE 2  
DR MAHATHIR BOARDS "NiCE 2" BUS FOR UMNO MEETING

JITRA, May 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today arrived at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Pulau Nyior here on board a semi double-decker "NiCE 2" prototype.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a one-day visit to the state, is scheduled to open the Kubang Pasu Umno division delegates' conference at the school.

He boarded the bus, which is 3.9m in height and developed by Plusliner Sdn Bhd, for the 12km journey from Kepala Batas Airport to the school.

Plusliner Sdn Bhd is a subsidiary of Park May Berhad.

Plusliner Sdn Bhd general manager Chan Keong Meng said the prototype was developed at the cost of RM540,000 as compared to RM1 million if it was an imported model.

"Five NiCE 2 buses will be launched in July. We will increase the number to 10 by October," Chan told reporters.

Among those who joined the Dr Mahathir on the NiCE 2 ride were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and the Prime Minister's personal representative for the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency Tan Sri Osman Aroff.

Chan said the NiCE 2 buses would only serve the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore route and it was tailored for the needs of those seeking more comfort on board executive coaches.

NiCE 2 has 30 seats on its upper deck and six lounge-style seats in the lower deck.

Chan assured that NiCE 2 is safe and stable even though it is driven at high speed on the road.

Set up in 1995, Park May Berhad through Plusliner Sdn Bhd operates express buses on the North-South Highway. The company also provides stage bus services in the Klang Valley, Penang, north Perak, Seremban and Kuantan.

Plusliner Sdn Bhd now has 81 Plusliner express coaches and 30 NiCe executive coaches.

-- BERNAMA  
MAN RON ZUL