

28 FEB 2002

Mahathir-Arrival

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES HOME TO A ROUSING WELCOME

SEPANG, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad returned home to a rousing welcome today after being away for a month during which he toured the Antarctica and made a five-day working visit to Britain.

He was met on arrival at KLIA's Bunga Raya Complex here by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Cabinet ministers.

More than 1,500 well-wishers, including university students, were also at the airport to greet him.

Dr Mahathir said he was touched by the airport reception which saw well-wishers jostling to shake the prime minister's hand.

Abdullah Shafik, 42, of Kampung Baru in Kuala Lumpur, said it was only this time around that he able to realise his wish to meet Dr Mahathir in person and shake his hand.

Secondary school student D. Maheswarri said she would cherish her meeting with the prime minister on his return today even if it was only for a brief moment.

Saiful Bahrin, 32, of Selayang said he missed Dr Mahathir and was glad that the prime minister has returned safely.

-- BERNAMA

SR AFY RYN