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VIP visit a pleasant surprise for twins Ahmad, Muhammad

Kamarulzaman Salleh

TWINS Ahmad and Muhammad Rosli received a pleasant surprise yesterday when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali visited them at the King Fahad National Guard Hospital, about 20km from here.

The Prime Minister and his wife spent about 30 minutes chatting with the four-and-a-half-year-olds, their parents Rosli Abdul Rahim and Aishah Kanda, members of the operation team led by consultant paediatric surgeon Dr Abdullah al Rabeeah, and hospital head Dr Fahad al Jabbar.

The conjoined twins successfully underwent surgery to separate them by a group of 26 doctors on Sept 17.

Accompanying Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin and Malaysian ambassador to Saudi Arabia Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad.

Earlier, Dr Abdullah briefed the Prime Minister that the twins were in good health and were undergoing physiotherapy and rehabilitation to enable their muscles to grow to enable them to walk using artificial limbs, which would be ready in the next three weeks.

Dr Mahathir, who was at the hospital right after arriving from Islamabad, said the twins were doing well and he was surprised to see them standing.

"I'm very impressed because as a doctor I know how difficult the operation was because it not only involved the body but also the organs.

"They have done a very good job," Dr Mahathir said.