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Scouts-United Kingdom

BRITISH SCOUTS EAGER TO MEET DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- The 150 junior scouts from the United Kingdom, who arrived here after attending the 20th World Jamboree in Thailand, are eager to meet the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The scouts, aged between 14 and 17, were excited when informed they would meet the premier in person, said King Scout Brotherhood Malaysia Vice-Secretary Sharizad Husin.

The first batch, of the 800 British scouts, arrived at 3pm today to begin their visit to Malaysia.

"They are very happy and impatient to meet Dr Mahathir. They have only heard about the charismatic leader who brought progress to Malaysia but now they will meet him in person," he told Bernama when contacted here today. The group would interact with Dr Mahathir during their meet on Saturday in Putrajaya.

"Besides promoting the country to foreigners, especially to the younger generation, the programme will also show Malaysia is a safe place, unlike what is claimed by some quarters that the country is unsafe to visit," added Sharizad.

The scouts would arrive in different stages and take part in the Family Adoption Programme involving 100 families from Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Selangor, Melaka, Kuala Lumpur and Pahang -- until Jan 12.

"We will also organise similar programmes for scouts from Denmark and South American countries like Ecuador, Chile and Peru," he said.

The idea for the scouts to visit Malaysia was proposed by the British High Commission here.

National Scouts Chief Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, Chief National Scouts Commissioner Datuk Hamidin Abdullah, British High Commissioner Bruce Cleghorn and Swedish Charge d'affaires Johan Borgstam are expected to join the scouts when they meet Dr Mahathir.

-- BERNAMA

SHI ZS VP