

24 FEB 2003

NAM-Spouses/(With Pix)

DR SITI HASMAH HOSTS LUNCHEON FOR NAM FIRST LADIES

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- After a serious talk on how they can contribute to spread the message of peace and say "NO TO WAR", the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) First Ladies attended a luncheon hosted by the wife of the Malaysian Prime Minister, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, at Seri Perdana here today.

Among the First Ladies who attended the luncheon were Edith Lucie Bongo, wife of President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon; Her Majesty Inkhosikat, Consort of King Mswati III of Swaziland; Barbara Mogae, wife of President Festus Gontabanye Mogae of Botswana; and Toure Lodlo Traore, wife of President Amadou Toumani of Mali.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and the accompanying spouses of the NAM leaders delegation.

While having special Malaysian cuisines and delicacies, the ladies were entertained by evergreen singer, Yusni Hamid and an accompanying combo.

A presentation of Malaysian batik and a traditional fashion show was also held to entertain the guests.

Dr Siti Hasmah, in her welcoming speech, wished the NAM First Ladies and members of delegation a pleasant stay in Malaysia and to see for themselves the various aspects of Malaysia and its people.

"Malaysia prides itself as being a very hospitable country filled with warm and friendly people. I believe you will discover this and much more after your experience over these two days," she said, hoping they would return to Malaysia in future.

The First Ladies and accompanying spouses later visited the Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex in Jalan Conlay.

They will join the NAM leaders for a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel.

-- BERNAMA

HS MFJ TS