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OIC-Spouses

OIC FIRST LADIES TOUR PUTRAJAYA, NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- First Ladies and wives of ministers attending the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit were today taken on a tour of the Putra Mosque and other places of interest in the new administrative capital.

Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad joined the other First Ladies and spouses on the tour of the mosque.

The ladies, who came in two "Putra" buses, were received by the mosque's senior management staff. The visit took place soon after the opening of the 10th OIC Summit by Dr Mahathir at the Putrajaya Convention Centre (PCC) in the morning.

On arrival at the Putra Mosque, named after first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, they were shown a video presentation and this was followed by tea and a tour of the main prayer hall.

Among the First Ladies were Sehba Musharraf- wife of Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, Edith Lucie Bongo- wife of Gabon's President El Hadj Omar Bongo, Widad Babikir Omer- wife of Sudanese President Omer Hassan Ahmed El-Bashir and Semra Sezer-wife of Turkish President Ahmed Necdet Sezer.

The ladies had lunch at the Prime Minister's official residence, Sri Perdana.

At the luncheon, the visitors were served a selection of dishes popular among Malaysia's three main communities -- Bumiputeras, Chinese and Indians.

"Locally, this selection is popularly known as the "muhibbah" or racial harmony" cuisine (nasi campur)," explained Dr Siti Hasmah.

The guests were also entertained to a performance of traditional dances and fashion shows from several states in Malaysia.

Ten prominent Malaysian women who had each achieved excellence in their respective fields and won local and international accolades were introduced to the First Ladies and other foreign guests.

This was to inspire more Muslim women to excel in the fields they were involved in.

Spouses of the OIC delegates later went to Putrajaya's Souq Bazaar where they bought a wide range of souvenirs.

-- BERNAMA

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