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Endon, Sharifah Aziah fete ministers' wives

WIVES of foreign affairs ministers attending the NAM Summit were feted to a luncheon at the Shangri-la Hotel hosted by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar's wife Datin Seri Sharifah Aziah Syed Zainal Abidin.

Guests were treated to a seven-course Chinese luncheon and were also entertained by special guest Datuk Seri Endon Mahmood, wife of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

With a piece of paper in one hand and a microphone in the other, Endon and Sharifah Aziah belted out P. Ramlee's evergreen song "Malam Bulan DiPagar Bintang".

The luncheon was attended by some 150 women, including spouses of the foreign ministers, envoys and also wives of several Malaysian ministers.

Those present included Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda's wife Herawati Wirayuda, Mauritius Foreign Affairs Minister A.K. Gayan's wife Sooryakanthi Gayan, Palestine Ambassador Ahmad Al-Farra's wife Sawsan Al-Farra, and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

Sharifah Aziah, in her welcoming remarks, said the participation of the spouses would allow better acquaintances apart from fostering better understanding and relations between their respective countries and NAM.

Today, they have a busy schedule, including a visit to KLCC and a tour of the city, before moving on to more serious business on Monday with a roundtable dialogue chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.