

02/09/2003

Power on, off during PM's tour of Langkawi

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LANGKAWI, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's hectic schedule of project inspections here may have "saved" him from most of the discomforts and difficulties brought about by the blackout, but he was not totally spared.

When the blackout occurred about 10am, Dr Mahathir was already on his way to Sungai Kilim, where he boarded a boat to inspect the area's famed mangrove swamps.

Two hours later, power was already being restored in stages throughout the island.

But when Dr Mahathir later visited a stall at Beras Terbakar in Padang Matsirat to buy kain pelikat about 1pm, power in the area was out.

The electricity supply came back a few minutes later.

During his boat ride at Sungai Kilim earlier, Dr Mahathir was taken to a spot where eagles congregated. The area, served by tour boat operators, features feeding sessions for the birds.

His boat then made a brief stop at a fish-breeding project managed by the Halim Mazmin Group.

By the time his boat landed at a jetty near the Barn Thai restaurant about noon, power supply was being restored in stages throughout the island.

Dr Mahathir had arrived here yesterday for an overnight working visit.

After spending last night at the Kampung Tok Senik Resort, the Prime Minister, accompanied by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, began their day today with a visit to the Galleria Perdana about 9.20 am.

They spent about 30 minutes inspecting the building progress of two new blocks at the RM24 million facility, which stores gifts and souvenirs given to the Prime Minister.

Accompanying Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) Datuk Anwar Abdul Rahman.