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Thousands join PM at Hari Raya open house

JITRA, Wed. - Thousands of well-wishers and guests joined Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali at their Hari Raya Aidiladha open house at Dewan Wawasan here today.

The crowd was treated to a lavish spread of ketupat, lemang, rendang, satay and laksa Kedah but many were eager to meet and greet Dr Mahathir who hosted the open house in his capacity as Kubang Pasu MP.

Loud cheers greeted the arrival of Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah while Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and senior Federal and State Government officials were present to welcome the couple.

Also present were Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung and Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk M. Kayveas.

Crowds also waited for the Prime Minister at two separate meet-the-people sessions, which were held at 12 and 2.15pm, respectively.

The cheerful yet informal atmosphere at the PM's open house impressed a 12-member delegation from Thailand who were there for the first time.

Led by Thai Interior Ministry deputy permanent secretary Siwa Sangmanee, the group, which also included the Governors of Yala, Satun and Songkhla, presented Dr Mahathir with gifts and apologies from their Interior Minister Mohamad Noor Matha who could not attend the event due to work commitments.