

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	19/8/2013

PAGE 2 | NEW STRAITS TIMES ● F

PRIME NEWS

20,000 turn up for Dr M's Raya open house

NST-19/8/2013

SUMPTUOUS SPREAD:

People of all races come from afar to take pictures and convey greetings to former premier

**ROZANNA LATIFF
AND ADIB POVERA**
SERI KEMBANGAN
news@nst.com.my

MORE than 20,000 people braved a long queue for a chance to meet Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the elderly statesman's Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house yesterday.

The fine weather added to the cheery atmosphere. They eagerly took photographs with him and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, besides enjoying the Raya spread.

Dr Mahathir looked resplendent in a grey *baju Melayu* and his wife in a light turquoise *baju kurung*.

The couple were joined by their son, Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, who is also Kedah menteri besar.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, his wife Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman, Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang, Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid



Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and his wife, Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman, taking a picture with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, during Dr Mahathir's open house at The Mines yesterday. Pic by Rosela Ismail

Hamidi, Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Joseph Kurup, former Malacca chief minister Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam, Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen and former Johor menteri besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman were among those present.

A shuttle bus service was provided for the visitors to get to Dr Mahathir's residence from where they had parked their vehicles.

Monica Lee, 32, an advertising executive from Shah Alam, said she was excited to meet Dr Mahathir as

he had been her idol since her secondary school days.

"We woke up at 6am to get ready as we did not want to miss this opportunity to meet Tun," said Lee, who came with her husband and their two children, all clad in red *baju kurung* and *baju Melayu*.

S. Murugiah, 46, a restaurant operator from Malacca, was also delighted to shake hands and take a photograph with Dr Mahathir.

"I will hang the picture in my house for everyone to see."

Adravan Abbas, 26, an Iranian student, said it was the first time he had attended a Raya open house and was impressed with the large

turnout of multiracial and multi-religious visitors.

"I like to see the colourful Raya clothes. Malaysian food also tastes delicious," said Adravan, who loves satay and rendang.

Dr Mahathir apologised to those who did not have the opportunity to shake hands and take photographs with him at his open house.

Page 1 pic: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (right) listening intently to Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the former's open house at The Mines in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.