

MAHATHIR - HIGHWAY
BM

32 (P)
GERIK, AUG. 19 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SUGGESTED THAT THE TASIK BANDING AREA AT THE EAST-WEST HIGHWAY BE DEVELOPED INTO A HOLIDAY RESORT.

APART FROM ATTRACTING MORE USERS OF THE HIGHWAY THE PROJECT WOULD ALSO BRING A QUICKENED TEMPO OF LIFE AND MORE ACTIVITY IN THE LONELY AREA.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A FOUR-HOUR TOUR OF THE HIGHWAY THAT IT WOULD IN ADDITION PROVIDE ANOTHER SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

AMONG THE FACILITIES HE ENVISAGED FOR TOURISTS WERE A REST HOUSE AND RECREATIONAL AMENITIES SUCH AS BOAT TOURS. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID BANDING, LOCATED MORE THAN 609.6 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL, HAD GREAT TOURISM POTENTIAL BECAUSE OF ITS SCENIC NATURAL SURROUNDINGS AND FRESH ATMOSPHERE.

HE WAS PREPARED TO HAVE TALKS WITH THE PERAK GOVERNMENT ON HIS PROPOSAL AND SEEK DEVELOPERS WILLING TO DEVELOP THE AREA.

-- MORE 2050/MB

MAHATHIR - HIGHWAY 2 GERIK

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH AND THEIR PARTY, WHICH INCLUDED SECOND DIVISION GOC DATUK HASHIM ALI AND DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE DEFENCE MINISTRY DATUK BAHARUDDIN MUSA, WERE RECEIVED ON ARRIVAL BY HELICOPTER AT BANDING BY PERAK MENTRI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOHAMAD WAN TEH.

THE PARTY HAD EARLIER STOPPED OVER AT PULAU PINANG FOR A BRIEFING ON SECURITY IN THE BORDER AREA GIVEN BY MEJ. JEN. HASHIM.

AT BANDING, COMMANDING OFFICER OF SECURITY FORCES STATIONED AT THE HIGHWAY, LT. KOL. BENYAMIN BIN ISMAIL BABU, BRIEFED THE DELEGATION ON SECURITY AT THE HIGHWAY.

BRIEFINGS WERE ALSO DELIVERED BY SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE PWD ENCIK OH YEW MENG AND GERIK OCPD SUPT MOHAMED BIN HASHIM.

THE PRIME MINISTER LATER TOURED A FORWARD BASE AT THE 36TH KM OF THE HIGHWAY FOR A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT LIFE OF SERVICEMEN THERE AND THEIR READINESS IN GUARDING THE HIGHWAY AGAINST COMMUNIST TERRORIST ATTACK. -- MORE 2105/AH

N151

MAHATHIR - HIGHWAY 3 GERIK

FROM THERE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND HIS PARTY LEFT BY CAR FOR THE 26TH KM TO BOARD A HELICOPTER TO KOTA BAHAR, WHERE HE OPENED THE KELANTAN UMNO CONVENTION AT KEM KIJANG.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR BY AIRCRAFT FROM THE PENGKALAN CHEPA AIRPORT.

AMONG KELANTAN VIPS WHO SAW HIM OFF AT THE AIRPORT WERE FINANCE MINISTER TENGGURAZALEIGH HANZAH AND MENTRI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMAD YAACOB. -- BERNAMA 2107/AH