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KOTA KINABALU, JULY 7 (BERNAMA) --- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH WERE GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME WHEN THEY ARRIVED HERE BY EXECUTIVE JET THIS AFTERNOON FOR A TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT.

CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN AND HIS WIFE DATIN GENEVIEVE LED A LARGE CROWD OF STATE CABINET MINISTERS AND LOCAL DIGNITARIES TO WELCOME THEM AT THE KOTA KINABALU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

A KOMPANG BAND AND A LION DANCE TROUPE WERE IN ATTENDANCE. LOCAL MAIDENS DRESSED IN TRADITIONAL COSTUMES CARRYING THE BUNGA MANGGA ALSO GREETED THEM.

DATUK PAIRIN INTRODUCED THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS WIFE TO THE STATE MINISTERS AND DIGNITARIES.

STATE SECRETARY TAN SRI HAJI ABDUL HAMID EGOH'S DAUGHTER PRESENTED DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH WITH A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS.

LATER TODAY THE PRIME MINISTER WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE AIRPORT'S NEW TERMINAL. -- BERNAMA
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