

The day Sepang folk came out in full force

IT was a cold and misty morning yesterday when a huge crowd from Sepang began to converge at Bagan Lalang hours before Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was scheduled to arrive.

They started filing out from their homes as early as 7am and made their way to the Bagan Lalang beach resort where Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was scheduled to make his appearance at 9.30am.

Schoolchildren who lined the road, holding *bunga manggar*, leading to the resort had been prepared by 8am.

As the mist lifted and as the sun came out in full force, people still kept coming in and took up positions near the stage erected for the function.

Kampung folk, old and young and from all races, were undeterred by the blazing heat and continued to file in.

Representatives from the Barisan Nasional component parties also showed up in full force with the rest of the *rajah*.

By 9.30am, the guest-of-honour had arrived via helicopter, but the Prime Minister's progress from the landing field to the site was hampered by a

long line of cars which had formed at the only road leading to the resort.

The scene at the site was completely different with people rushing in to get the best spot where they could get a glimpse of the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and his entourage arrived at the resort at 10.10am, accompanied by the beat of *kompang*.

He was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib, and Sepang MP Haji Mohamad Sharif Jajang.

Caution

Banners and flags were raised high to welcome his arrival and shouts of *Hidup Mahathir* (Long live Mahathir) filled the air.

After the welcoming address by both the Menteri Besar and the Sepang MP, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir delivered his speech to the 20,000-strong crowd, where he cautioned the people to choose carefully their representatives in the coming elections.

Later, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir officially opened the Bagan Lalang beach resort.