

07 AUG 1996

UMNO PREPARED TO HELP SARWAK BN IN STATE ELECTION

SIBU, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Umno is prepared to send its members to Sarawak to help the Barisan Nasional there in the state election which must be held before the end of November.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said today the party was waiting for the main BN component party in Sarawak, Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), to ask for its assistance.

Umno will send its members to campaign for the BN if PBB feels there is a need for that, he told reporters at the airport here while waiting for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's arrival.

The Prime Minister, who arrived here for a three-day visit to Sarawak, was welcomed by some 10,000 people led by Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, federal and state ministers and government officials.

Also present were leaders of BN component parties in Sarawak -- PBB, Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Sarawak National Party (Snap) dan Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS).

Tonight, Dr Mahathir will attend a dinner with the people at Dewan Suarah. He will be in Mukah tomorrow morning to launch the Gerak Mesra programme.

In the evening, Dr Mahathir will leave for Kuching where he will launch the Komag (M) Sdn Bhd factory at the Sama Jaya industrial estate.

He will return to Kuala Lumpur on Friday morning. -- BERNAMA

AHM SK