

18 AUG 1997

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

MIRI, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was accorded a grand welcome by about 2,000 people when he arrived here on a government executive jet from Kota Kinabalu to begin a two-day official visit to Sarawak.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, was received at the airport here by Sarawak chief minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Deputy chief minister Datuk Dr George Chan , members of the state cabinet, local dignitaries and heads of department were also present.

Immediately upon arrival Dr Mahathir officiated at at ground-breaking for the new Miri library and "Miri City Fan" which are part of the town beautification.

Later today, the prime minister is scheduled to depart for Kuching to visit a residential area in the Demak Laut industrial zone near the state capital.

He is also scheduled to be briefed on a deep water port under construction in Senari adjacent to the zone.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir will be guest-of-honour at a community dinner at the banquet hall of the state legislative assembly building in Kuching.

Meanwhile, earlier in Kota Kinabalu, Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah wound up their visit two-day visit to Sabah and were seen off at the airport by chief minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee and members of the state cabinet.

While in Sabah, Dr Mahathir, among other places, visited the Deramakot forest reserve in Sandakan for a first-hand look at the reduced-impact-logging method applied there.-- BERNAMA

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