

17 MAR 1997

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES FOR TWO-DAY VISIT TO PAHANG

KUANTAN , March 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here this morning for a two-day visit to the state where, among others, he will open two plants in Gebeng and launch the capital city for made-in-Malaysia household electrical appliances in Gambang.

On hand to welcome Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd, at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base here were Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Hasan Arifin and State Executive Councillors.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Culture, Arts and Tourism Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik and Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek were also present.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to open W.R. Grace factories at the Gebeng Industrial estate and launch the MEC City in Gambang, a project developed by Malaysia Electronic Corporation Bhd (MEC) and visit Tasik Chini Dam project, near here.

W.R. Grace's two factories -- W.R. Grace Packaging (M) Sdn Bhd and W.R. Grace Special Chemical Plant (M) Sdn Bhd -- produce high quality packaging plastic materials and silica.

Both the subsidiaries of the Florida-based W.R. Grace & Co are on a 30.3-hectare site and involved total investment of US\$100 million (RM250 million).

The MEC City, meanwhile, covering over some 1,200 hectares in Gambang will become the MEC operations centre producing a wide range of household electrical items.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir will leave for Taman Negara where he will open the canopy walkway and climb the "ran", a tree-top house. -- BERNAMA

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