

18 AUG 1997

Mahathir-projects

DR MAHATHIR VISITS PROJECT SITES IN KUCHING

KUCHING, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is on a two-day visit to Sarawak, today inspected two key projects adjacent to each other about 20 km from here.

They are the 1,200-hectare reclamation project at Demak Laut and the new Kuching deep-water port under construction at Kampung Senari.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and other state dignitaries.

The RM3-billion reclamation project, undertaken by Hock Seng Lee Berhad (HSLB), would locate a low-cost housing scheme as well as a modern industrial park and township.

Demak Laut is one of the industrial zones designed to spearhead Sarawak's impending industrialisation programme.

Later Dr Mahathir visited the site of the Senari deepwater port which is also being developed by HSLB at a cost of RM300 million.

HSLB executive chairman Dennis Yii and managing director Paul Yu briefed the prime minister on the technical aspects of both projects.

The company used sophisticated reclamation and soil improvement techniques as well as for ground consolidation including vertical and horizontal drains.

Dr Mahathir also toured a photographic exhibition of the port, designed to meet increasing maritime cargo because of Sarawak's rapid economic growth.

The port would enable local exporters to compete in the international market by offering competitive cargo-handling charges upon commencing operations by January next year.-- BERNAMA

CJ rn