

21 MAR 1997

DR MAHATHIR'S VISIT TO KELANTAN A BLESSING FOR MALAYSIANS

KOTA BAHARU, March 21 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat today described Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Kelantan, scheduled for April 4, as a blessing to the people.

"It signifies that the conflict between the federal government and the PAS state government, which has not benefited any party all this while, is tapering off," he told reporters after his weekly Friday sermon here.

Nik Aziz was asked to comment on Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa's statement yesterday that Dr Mahathir's one-day working visit to Kelantan this time around would be different in that there would be no political programme.

Nik Abdul Aziz and state government officials will be among those to welcome the prime minister at the Sultan Ismail Petra airport here at 8.45am.

The menteri besar said he would draw up a programme on behalf of the state government and people of Kelantan to welcome Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir is expected, among other things, to attend the signing of an agreement for a RM2 billion petrochemical project between Koperasi Usaha bersatu (KUB) and Keloil, a subsidiary of the Kelantan Economic Development Corporation, in Bachok. -- BERNAMA

WM MTA JK