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Kelantan Umno plans rousing welcome for PM

KOTA BARU, Wed. - Kelantan Umno will extend a rousing welcome to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he arrives for a one-day working visit to the State on Friday.

State Umno deputy information chief Datuk Rozali Isohak said the warm welcome was to show the people's appreciation to the Prime Minister for being awarded the Al-Malik Faisal Award recently.

He said a large crowd was expected to greet Dr Mahathir at the Sultan Ismail Petra airport and a Doa Selamat would be read for him.

"Community leaders will present special mementos to the Prime Minister, before he leaves the airport to open the Koperasi Usaha Bersatu textile factory in Pengkalan Chepa."

The Prime Minister would also witness the signing of the agreement between KUB and the State Economic Development Corporation over the setting up of a joint-venture company to carry out a petrochemical project in Pantai Senok, he said.

Rozali said Umno would organise a forum to discuss the significance of the award to the nation.

"The panellists are Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi; Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, and a representative of the State Government."

He said the forum would be chaired by Umno surpreme council member Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir.

Asked whether Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat would attend the forum, Rozali said the latter had indicated he would not attend.

However, the invitation to the State Government was still open and Rozali hoped that a representative would participate.

"The function is not political," he said, "and the State Government should not boycott the event."

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