

16 AUG 1997

Mahathir-visit

MAHATHIR ARRIVES FOR TWO-DAY VISIT

SANDAKAN, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today for two-day visit to Sabah.

He was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali and minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Chong Kah Kiat.

At the airport here, he was accorded a red-carpet welcome complete with traditional music and dances of the various local ethnic groups.

He was received by Sabah chief minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee, state Umno liaison chief Datuk Osu Sukam, deputy chief ministers and Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders.

Dr Mahathir then left onboard an air force helicopter to visit the Deramakot forest reserve where reduced impact logging is practised.

The state forestry department adopted the method using a skyline cable-yarding system which enabled complete retrieval of felled logs from the ground by winching with minimal disturbance to the environment and forest resources.

Later tonight he is scheduled to attend a dinner hosted by the Sandakan BN.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president is scheduled to open the Sabah Umno convention in Kota Kinabalu before meeting leaders of the Sabah BN component parties.

Later he is scheduled to open the Promenade Hotel in Kota Kinabalu before officiating at the Premier's Cup badminton championship at the Likas sports complex there.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to attend a Sabah BN dinner later tomorrow.

The prime minister and Dr Siti Hasmah will leave for Kuching on Monday morning. -- BERNAMA

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