

10 OCT 1997

Mahathir-Pledge

SOME 10,000 PEOPLE PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR MAHAHTIR

KUALA TERENGGANU, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Some 10,000 people today pledged support on behalf of the Terengganu government and the people for the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to tackle whatever problems faced by the country.

The ceremony was held at the car park of the Sultan Mahmud Airport, near here, as soon as Dr Mahathir arrived here this evening for a two-day visit to the state.

State Human Resources Development and Education Committee chairman Datuk Abdul Rashid Ngah led the crowd in reading the pledge.

People from all walks of life began gathering at the car park since 2pm carrying banners expressing support for the leadership of Dr Mahathir and Anwar.

Some of the banners read " Mahathir - Jangan gentar gugatan barat" (Mahathir

-- Don't Be Afraid of Western Threat), Mahathir - teruskan peranan wira dunia ketiga" (Mahathir -- Continue Your Role As Third World Hero), "Hidup dan mati kami tetap bersamamu - Mahathir dan Anwar" (Live or Death, We Are With You -- Mahathir and Anwar) and "Kami menentang yang menggugat kepimpinan Mahathir dan Anwar" (We Oppose Those Who Undermine The Leadership of Mahathir and Anwar).

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, arrived here on a special aircraft at 4.50pm.

Among those present to greet him were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, Deputy Agriculture Minister Datuk Dr Tengku Mahmud Mansor, Deputy Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Abu Bakar Daud, Deputy Entrepreneur Development Minister Haji Idris Jusoh and leaders of Barisan Nasional component parties.

After the pledge of support, Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah proceeded to Istana Badariah to have an audience with the Sultan of Terengganu.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah would accompany the Sultan and the Permaisuri at the closing ceremony of the 40th national-level Quran-reading competition at the Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah Stadium here.

The Sultan will also give away the prizes.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to leave for Kemaman tomorrow to open the Terengganu Advanced Training Institute at Telok Kalung. He will return to Kuala Lumpur in the evening. -- BERNAMA

SBS NMO TS