

27 NOV 1998

Mahathir-arrival

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES FOR TWO-DAY VISIT AMIDST POLLS TALK

KOTA KINABALU, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, arrived here today for a two-day working visit to Sabah which is now rife with talk of an impending state election.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah were met on arrival at the airport here by Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, his deputy and Sabah Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Osu Sukam and members of the state Cabinet.

Federal Secretary Tan Sri Datu Khalil Datu Jamalul, heads of department, state dignitaries, senior state government officials and party leaders of the governing Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition were also present as part of the grand welcome for the prime minister.

Shortly upon arrival, Dr Mahathir held a closed-door meeting with members of the state Cabinet before adjourning to the State Mosque for Friday prayers.

In the afternoon the prime minister will meet state religious leaders, also behind closed doors, before attending a BN Youth rally at the Likas sports complex near here.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, is scheduled to meet the state Umno liaison committee before returning to the federal capital.

-- BERNAMA

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