

15 APR 1998

Mahathir - Johor

PACKED WEEKEND ITINERARY FOR PM IN JOHOR

JOHOR BAHRU, April 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will have a packed itinerary when he makes a two-day official to Johor from Saturday, according to the Information Department today.

The prime minister's first function upon arrival here is to jointly officiate at the opening of the Malaysia-Singapore second road link with his Singapore counterpart Goh Chok Tong.

The second crossing, linking Tanjung Kupang in Johor with Tuas in the republic, was jointly built by both countries with Singapore spending S\$600 million putting up a 0.3km stretch of the two-km crossing.

Malaysia built the remaining 1.7km of the crossing as well as a six-lane dual carriageway, costing RM1.2 billion, connecting the link to the North-South Expressway.

According to the official programme issued by the department, Dr Mahathir's next function is visiting the site of Johor's second port to be built in Tanjung Pelepas, near Gelang Patah at a cost of RM2.1 billion.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, is later scheduled to hold discussions with the Johor Umno liaison committee at the Menteri Besar's residence here followed by a luncheon with the people at the same venue.

Later in the day, the prime minister will visit and inaugurate the Stulang Laut duty-free complex here.

On Sunday, Dr Mahathir will open the 1998 Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix at the Pasir Gudang circuit about 44 km from here.

Malaysia is the second Asian country, after Japan, selected to host the Asian circuit of the race.

Sunday's race is the first national grand prix to be held outside the traditional circuit in Shah Alam since 1991 and also the second FIM motorcycle GP for the year after the Suzuka GP in Japan last April 5.

In the afternoon, Dr Mahathir will launch an integrated national livestock farming programme at the Johor Education Foundation estate at Km 17 Kulai-Kota Tinggi Road.

The prime minister's last function during this visit is inaugurating the new terminal building of the Sultan Ismail International Airport in Senai.-- BERNAMA

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