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PM on two-day visit to Sarawak from tomorrow

KUCHING, Tues. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to make a two-day official visit to Sarawak beginning Thursday.

He is expected to fly in with Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali to a traditional welcome at the Kuching International airport at 9.45am before being driven to declare open the Sarawak River Regulation Scheme in Pending at 11am.

After lunch at the Kuching North City Hall office, Dr Mahathir will hold a meet-the-people session at the State indoor stadium at 2.45pm.

He will also visit the site of the proposed Sarawak State Library near the indoor stadium at 4.45pm and attend a dinner at the State Legislative Assembly Hall.

Work on the library started on Aug 16, 1996 and is expected to be completed by end of next year. Its main features include an auditorium with a seating capacity of 300, conference and training rooms, child care centre, cafeteria, bookshops and an administrative block.

On Friday, Dr Mahathir will declare open the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu's triennial delegates conference at 8.30am at the Santubong Resort, 32km from here.

At 10.30am, he is scheduled to hold a closed-door meeting with State Barisan Nasional leaders before Friday prayers at Masjid Jamek, the State Mosque.

Dr Mahathir is expected to hold a Press conference at the airport at 2.45pm before flying back to Kuala Lumpur.

The Sarawak River Regulation Scheme, a RM150 million project, comprises a barrage of five radial gates controlling the flow of water on the Sarawak river, a 125-metre by 25-metre wide ship lock, and a 435m four-lane bridge over the barrage and lock.

This project forms part of the State's "ring road" along the periphery of the city to minimise traffic through the city centre.

With this bridge, the Pending Industrial Estate and Demak Laut Industrial Estate are now connected. Previously, travel between them required a journey through busy sections of the city.

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