

10 MAY 1999

Lajim-Mahathir

BIG WELCOME AWAITS DR MAHATHIR IN SABAH

KOTA KINABALU, May 10 (Bernama) -- Sabah has drawn up a grand welcome for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he makes a two-day working visit to the state beginning Thursday.

A procession of 70 Bajau horsemen will accompany the Prime Minister when he travels in a car from the Kota Kinabalu International Airport to the hotel where he will be staying.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Lajim Ukin said Dr Mahathir was scheduled to arrive at the old terminal of the airport at 2pm.

His first function would be a closed-door meeting with state ministers and assistant ministers at 4pm, he told reporters here today.

"This will be followed by a tahlil ceremony at the State Mosque in conjunction with the Barisan Nasional (BN) thanksgiving for its victory in the last state election," he said.

Lajim, the organising chairman for the visit, said Dr Mahathir would attend a thanksgiving ceremony the same evening at Stadium Likas here.

On Friday, the Prime Minister will meet the people in Ranau, about 100km from here.

He will perform Friday prayers at the State Mosque before having lunch with state ministers led Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam.

He is expected to hold a press conference at 2.30pm before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

-- BERNAMA

JS YBY