

17 SEP 1999

Mahathir-Arrival

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES FOR TWO-DAY VISIT

TAWAU, Sept 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today to begin a two-day visit to Sabah after having a packed itinerary in Labuan yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was met on arrival by Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam and other Sabah Barisan Nasional component party leaders.

Soon after, Dr Mahathir boarded a helicopter to Lahad Datu, about 100km from here to open an estate under the development programme for the hardcore in Bahagak.

The plantation is about 50km from Lahad Datu on the Sabah east coast.

Later in the afternoon, the prime minister is scheduled to meet the state Umno liaison committee in Kota Kinabalu.

Tomorrow the prime minister is scheduled to go to Kundasang, about 80km from Kota Kinabalu to flag off two world-class competitions at the foot of Mount Kinabalu, Southeast Asia's highest mountain.

The first event is the 15th world mountain run at the Kinabalu Park, a prestigious race involving 190 runners and 52 officials from 33 countries.

After that Dr Mahathir leaves for the Gunung Kinabalu Golf Club to open the Kinabalu Challenge '99, a Malaysian invitational hang-gliding championship.

By hosting it, Malaysia places herself as a key venue on the map of world hang-gliding circuit.

From Kundasang, the prime minister leaves for Tuaran to meet state BN leaders and deliver a key-note address at the national BN Youth convention being held there.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president and BN chairman, is scheduled to leave for Kuala Lumpur late tomorrow afternoon.

-- BERNAMA

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