

09 AUG 1999

Mahathir-Arrival

DR MAHATHIR OPENS NEW MELAKA HOSPITAL DURING TWO-DAY VISIT

MELAKA, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here for a two-day working visit during which he will inaugurate the RM77-million new Melaka Hospital later today.

He is accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

They were received by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin, other state dignitaries and senior government officers upon arrival at the Equatorial in Bandar Hilir.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam and Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn also received the prime minister there alongside a 1,000-strong crowd of flag- and banner-carrying Barisan Nasional (BN) supporters.

Immediately upon arrival, Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president and BN chairman, held a closed-door meeting with the Melaka Umno liaison committee followed by another with other Umno and BN leaders at the same venue.

Among other things, the new hospital that the prime minister will open later today has additional 800 beds, extra operation theatres and maternity wards.

The prime minister's itinerary tomorrow, include visiting the Hasbro furniture factory in the Bukit Rambai industrial zone and addressing 20,000 people at the Tangga Batu industrial zone near here.

-- BERNAMA

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