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KENINGAU FOLKS NAME PARK AFTER MAHATHIR TO COMMEMORATE HIS VISIT

KENINGAU, Feb 19 (Bernama) -- To commemorate Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to this interior district, his first since becoming prime minister in 1981, the residents here have named a park after him.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Kurup announced this at a gathering attended by Dr Mahathir, who was here on the second day of his three-day visit to Sabah.

Kurup said the gesture was to complement the "son of Keningau" honorary title conferred on Dr Mahathir at the same function in appreciation of his visit to the remote district.

He expressed the hope that the prime minister would regard the people of Keningau as part of his family.

"In line with our tradition, we hope Dr Mahathir, being the number one son, will take care of the family by visiting us frequently," he said.

Kurup said that in other countries, especially in the West, it was normal for the residents of a town to give the key to the town to a leader whom they held in high esteem.

But in keeping with the local tradition, the residents here had opted to show their respect for Dr Mahathir by creating "Taman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir".

-- BERNAMA

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