

11 MAR 1999

Mahathir-Festive

RANAU FOLKS IN FESTIVE MOOD FOR PM VISIT

RANAU, March 11 (Bernama) -- Ranau folks turned out in the thousands at the Tamu market site in Seberang Sungai here to catch a glimpse of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and to listen to his speech before they head to the polling stations tomorrow and on Saturday.

They set out in droves from their villages at the foothill of Mount Kinabalu since early morning to welcome the prime minister.

Dr Mahathir, on an election campaign trail, was scheduled to arrive here to drum up support for the BN candidates here and in Kundasang.

However, their hopes were dashed as inclement weather prevented him from coming here.

However, with the advanced communications technology, Dr Mahathir addressed the crowd by telephone from the airport VIP room which was relayed through loud speakers.

His 20-minute speech was also aired over Radio Sabah.

While waiting for Dr Mahathir's arrival, the Information Department's Pentarama and Kombo Yayasan Pahang band entertained the crowd with songs and traditional dances.

Among the local artistes were Datin Rafeah Buang.

Their festive and happy mood, however, came to an abrupt end when the emcee announced that Dr Mahathir's visit had been called off due to bad weather.

Land and Cooperative Development Minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam were among the VIPs present to greet the prime minister.

-- BERNAMA

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