

Freed hostages to be guests at PM's dinner

Nst 27 JUL 2000

KOTA KINABALU, Wed. — Six Malaysians freed by armed rebels from Jo10 in southern Philippines will be among the guests at the “Prime Minister’s Dinner with the *rakyat*” here tomorrow.

They are Wildlife Department rangers Francis Masangkim and Baln Krishnan Nair, divemaster Vincent Kwong and cook Lee Hock Leong who were released on July 21. They arrived here on Saturday.

Two others freed earlier Wildlife Department ranger Zulkarnain Hashim and policeman Abdul Jawah Salawat are expected to arrive in Kota Kinabalu tomorrow from the east coast to attend the dinner.

They are expected to be introduced to the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, accompanied by wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, arrived here this evening for a three-day working visit.

Meanwhile, the three Malaysian hostages still being held captive by the armed rebels group contacted their families in Sabah today, from Bandang in Jolo, south Philippines.

The three remaining Malaysians in Jo10 are dive master Fong Yin Ken, cook Kua Yu Loong and Sabah Wildlife Department ranger Basilius Jim.