

PM to make one-day visit to Pulau Brait

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KUCHING, Sun. — Some 8,500 villagers of Pulau Brait at the mouth of Sungai Rajang will have a special visitor tomorrow — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He will attend a meet-the-people session at Kampung Semop. Accompanying him will be Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and Federal and State leaders.

Dr Mahathir's visit is to shift the Barisan Nasional campaign into top gear for the State election on Thursday. He will address a gathering at the Sibu airport before proceeding to Kuching to meet State BN leaders.

He will also attend a meet-the-people session at Stadium Perpaduan Negeri here before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

Pulau Brait is within the State constituency of Serdeng which is one of three seats that make up the Kuala Rajang parliamentary constituency.

The incumbent Assemblyman is Datuk Mohamad Asfia Awang Nasar of the BN while the Kuala Rajang MP is Federal Agriculture Minister Datuk Effendi Norwawi.

The average household monthly income of the people here, who depend largely on fishing for a living, is less than RM600.

Treated water, electricity, health centres, shops and even roads are not available on the island.

One has to take a four-hour boat ride from Sibu to reach the island. One can also reach Pulau Brait by boat from Sarikei.