

19 JUL 2001

Mahathir-visit

DR MAHATHIR TO TOUR DISTRICTS BY BUS DURING ONE-DAY VISIT

KOTA BAHARU, July 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will take a bus tour to see the level of development in several districts in the state when he visits Kelantan tomorrow.

Umno Information Chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today Dr Mahathir's willingness to take time off from his heavy schedule to visit Kelantan for a day showed that he had the welfare of the people at heart.

"In this visit, the Prime Minister will see for himself the problems facing Kelantan especially the people when AFTA (Asean Free Trade Agreement) is implemented in 2003," he said at a news conference on Dr Mahathir's one day visit.

He said Dr Mahathir would also see the progress of several multi-million ringgit development projects carried out by the federal government.

They include the RM50 million project to widen the terminal at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport, Pengkalan Chepa, near here.

Mustapa, who is also Kelantan Umno Chief, said Dr Mahathir would also visit the Rantau Panjang border town and Pengkalan Kubor Duty Free Area where he would also be given a development briefing.

Some people in Kelantan were not aware of the role and contribution made by the federal government in developing the state especially when the PAS government failed to fulfil its obligation, he said.

"Hopefully after this the people of Kelantan will see and assess for themselves the contribution of the federal government," he said.

Dr Mahathir is expected to arrive at the airport here at 8.45am and will also join Muslims to Friday prayers at the Masjid Al-Huda di Pengkalan Kubor.

He will be accompanied by his wife Dr Siti Hasmah.

--BERNAMA

RAR ABG