

19 MAY 2001

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES IN SABAH FOR TWO-DAY VISIT

KOTA KINABALU, May 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here this afternoon for a two-day visit to Sabah.

Accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, he was met on arrival at the international airport here by Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, state cabinet ministers and heads of state and federal government departments.

Also present was former chief minister Datuk Osu Sukam who is Sabah Umno Chief.

The visit is the first by Dr Mahathir after a change in the state leadership following his decision to retain the system of rotation for the post of Sabah chief minister which saw Chong taking over from Osu on March 27.

The Prime Minister, who flew in from Johor after a visit there, is scheduled to meet Sabah Umno liaison committee tonight.

Tomorrow, he will join state cabinet ministers to a breakfast before opening the special assembly of Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar), a Barisan Nasional (BN) component party.

--BERNAMA

JS ABG