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MAHATHIR STARTS TWO-DAY VISIT TO SARAWAK ON FRIDAY

KUCHING, Feb 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to make a two-day working visit to Sarawak starting Friday, according to an itinerary made available by the state Information Department.

His itinerary includes meeting Sarawak Barisan Nasional component leaders at the Hilton here upon arrival. Dr Mahathir is BN chairman.

The ruling coalition in Sarawak comprises Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sarawak (SUPP), Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) and Parti Kebangsaan Sarawak (Snap).

Later in the afternoon, Dr Mahathir will open Malaysia's first integrated circuit wafer foundry, 1st Silicon in the Sama Jaya industrial zone here.

The foundry is a joint venture between the State Economic Development Corporation and Germany's Jenoptik AG involving an investment of US\$935 million (RM3.55 billion).

On the second day, the prime minister will address and hold a dialogue with state and federal government officers at the Crowne Plaza Riverside Hotel in the morning.

In the afternoon, he will meet Bumiputera petty traders at Wisma Sumber Alam in Petra Jaya.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to hold an airport press conference before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

-- BERNAMA

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