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Sarawak-Mahathir

PM HITS SARAWAK ELECTION CAMPAIGN TRAIL ON MONDAY

KUCHING, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional's battle for votes in the Sept 27 Sarawak state election intensifies with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad hitting the campaign trail on Monday.

Dr Mahathir will begin the day with a morning helicopter ride to Kampung Semop on Pulau Bruit in Sarikei for a meet-the-people session.

Pulau Bruit is one of the areas designated by Agriculture Minister Datuk Effendi Norwawi to implement his model farming project.

It is part of the Serdeng constituency where the BN candidate, Datuk Mohd Asfia Awang Nassar, who is also Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly, is involved in a straight fight with Independent candidate Abdul Kadir Madahan.

In the afternoon, Dr Mahathir is expected to address a large gathering of mainly BN supporters at the tarmac of the Sibu Airport.

In the evening, the prime minister will meet state BN leaders at the Merdeka Palace Hotel here.

He winds up his campaigning in the night where he is due to address the people at a stadium in Petrajaya here.

Dr Mahathir's trip comes on the heels of a two-day whirlwind campaign by his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Abdullah wooed votes in Spaoh and Bintulu yesterday and helicoptered to the constituencies of Asajaya and Simunjan in support of the BN candidates today before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

Others joining the campaign trail included Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz, MCA vice-president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Sabah Umno deputy chief Datuk Salleh Said Keruak.

-- BERNAMA

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