

Rousing welcome awaits PM in home state

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ALOR STAR, Tues. — More than 35,000 people are expected to gather at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport in Kepala Batas on Friday to welcome home Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali will be flying home after returning from an overseas vacation for a one-day visit to Kubang Pasu.

The visit will be a memorable one since it will be Dr Mahathir's first to his constituency after announcing his intention to resign.

The couple is expected to arrive at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang tomorrow morning.

Dr Mahathir's political secretary Datuk Johari Ibrahim said the Prime Minister's visit to Kubang Pasu this Friday had been arranged much earlier.

"The visit was planned even before the Umno general assembly," he said. Johari said Dr Mahathir was expected to arrive at Sultan Abdul Halim airport about 9am on Friday and head for the Keda Centre in Napoh to visit a towel factory run by the Women's Development Foundation.

The Prime Minister will later visit the newly constructed Dewan Millennium near Napoh before performing Friday prayers.

Johari said Dr Mahathir would leave for Bangkok about 3pm for a two-day official visit to Thailand.