

Thousands expected for PM's speech in Marang

KUALA TERENGGANU: More than 20,000 people are expected to attend a gathering to be addressed by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Marang next week, said Terengganu Umno chief Datuk Idris Jusoh.

"We expect the people of Terengganu to come out in full force to meet our national leader and listen to his explanation," Idris told a news conference here yesterday.

The gathering at SMK Tun Telanai on Aug 16 will be held at 9am soon after the Prime Minister arrives for a one-day visit to the state.

After the gathering, Dr Mahathir will have lunch with state Barisan Nasional leaders at a leading hotel here, said Idris.

There will be a meeting with Terengganu Umno leaders after Friday prayers followed by the opening of *Rumah Nelayan* in Kampung Tok Jembal here at 3.30pm.

Dr Mahathir, who will be accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ah, will attend a dinner with political leaders and non-governmental organisation representatives before returning to Kuala Lumpur, said Idris, reports Bernama.

In Malacca, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam said Dr Mahathir is scheduled to visit the state on Oct 3 and 4.

Among others, Dr Mahathir will open the Dunia *Melayu Dunia Islam* seminar, the new building for the governor, the Hang Tuah Mall and an agropark tropical fruit farm, he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will be in the state to open the state Barisan National convention on Sept 28, he said.

Ali Rustam said he had proposed to Dr Mahathir to standardise the name of Malacca to Melaka.