

05 JUL 2002

DR MAHATHIR GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME IN KEDAH

ALOR SETAR, July 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was given a rousing welcome by about 15,000 people at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport in Kepala Batas, near here, today upon his arrival for a one-day visit to Kedah.

The prime minister, accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, touched down at 8.55am.

As soon as he stepped out of the plane, the P.Ramlee song, "Di Mana Kanku Cari Ganti" was played.

The crowd then shouted "Hidup Mahathir" (Long live Mahathir), waving banners bearing slogans like "Mahathir perjuanganmu belum selesai" (Mahathir, your struggle is not over, "Jangan tinggalkan kami" (Don't leave us) and "Teruskan kepimpinanmu" (Carry on with your leadership).

Dr Mahathir had announced recently that he would be relinquishing his political and government posts after the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in October next year.

Dr Mahathir, dressed in matching light green baju Melayu and kain sampin, later addressed the crowd, comprising BN component party members, community leaders and government servants, from a dais.

Among those present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Ksu Koon and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

-- BERNAMA

MNH/za JK