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About 10,000 expected to welcome Dr Mahathir and wife

KUCHING, Fri. - About 10,000 people are expected to welcome Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali when they arrive on a two-day visit to the State on Monday.

The Prime Minister and Dr Siti Hasmah will be met by Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, his deputies Tan Sri Dr George Chan Hong Nam and Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang at the Kuching International Airport.

State Cabinet ministers, members of the Federal Cabinet from Sarawak, community leaders and senior government officers will be present.

In a statement today, the State Information Department said members of various ethnic groups in traditional costumes would perform dances along the red carpet.

Dr Mahathir would then proceed to Santubong, about 50km from here, to open the 10th triennial delegates convention of Parti Pesaka Bumiputra Bersatu, a Barisan Nasional component.

In the afternoon, he is scheduled to open Wisma Masja at Petra Jaya and then witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Di Antara Sdn Bhd and Austral Enterprises Berhad at the same venue.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah will be the guests-of-honour at a community dinner to be held in Santubong. They return to Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.