

08 JUL 2002

Mahathir-Arrival

DR MAHATHIR IN KUCHING TO OPEN PBB GENERAL ASSEMBLY

KUCHING, July 8 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were given a rousing welcome on arrival at Kuching International Airport this morning for a brief visit.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr George Chan led more than 8,000 people in welcoming the Prime Minister and Dr Siti Hasmah to the state.

The traditional welcome ceremony included dance performances by the various communities in the state.

Dr Mahathir will open the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) General Assembly at Santubong, about 35 km from here today.

The PBB heads the Sarawak Barisan Nasional Government which also includes the Sarawak United Peoples Party (SUPP), Sarawak National Party (Snap) and the Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS).

In the afternoon Dr Mahathir will open the Bangunan Masja in Petra Jaya. The building houses the various state ministries and commercial premises.

The RM50 million building owned by Lembaga Amanah Kebajikan Masjid Negeri (LAKMNS) is one of the tourist attractions in Sarawak in view of the fine surroundings and landscaping along the lines of the Federal administrative capital of Putrajaya.

After opening the building, the Prime Minister will witness the signing of an agreement between Austral Enterprise Sdn Bhd and LAKMNS for the setting up of an edible oil refinery.

Tonight Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah will be the guests of honour at an all community dinner.

-- BERNAMA

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