

03 JUL 2002

DR MAHATHIR GIVEN ROUSING WELCOME ON RETURN FROM VACATION

SUBANG, July 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was given a rousing welcome at the military airport here this morning on his return from vacation in Europe.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, was received by people from all walks of life headed by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Cabinet Ministers and community leaders.

Dr Mahathir's return was eagerly awaited following his surprise announcement at the end of the Umno General Assembly on June 22 that he wished to step down.

Abdullah had since announced that Dr Mahathir would head the government, Umno and the Barisan Nasional till October next year.

-- BERNAMA

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