

05 JUL 2002

ROUSING WELCOME AWAITS DR MAHATHIR IN S'WAK ON MONDAY

KUCHING, July 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Hasmah Mohamed Ali, will be given a rousing welcome upon their arrival here on Monday for a one-day visit to Sarawak.

A Sarawak Information Department statement here says 8,000 to 10,000 people from all walks of life are expected to converge on the Kuching International Airport to show their undivided support to the prime minister.

They will be led by Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and his wife, Datuk Amar Laila, Deputy Chief Ministers Tan Sri Dr George Chan and Tan Sri Alfred Jabu, federal and state cabinet ministers, political and community leaders, senior government officers and local dignitaries.

The prime minister will be accorded a traditional welcoming ceremony performed by the various ethnic groups in Sarawak.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to open Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu's (PBB) 10th general assembly in Santubong, about 35km from here, and the RM50 million Masjid Jamek (MASJA) building in Petra Jaya.

He will also witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on an oil palm venture between Lembaga Amanah Kebajikan Masjid Negeri Sarawak (LAKMNS) and Austral Enterprises Sdn Bhd and attend a community dinner.

-- BERNAMA

RDY JK