

15 SEP 2003

Mahathir-Kelantan (Arrival)

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES IN KELANTAN FOR ONE-DAY VISIT

KOTA BAHARU, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, arrived here today for a one-day visit to Kelantan.

The Prime Minister accompanied by Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu was welcomed at Sultan Ismail Petra Airport in Pengkalan Chepa by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali who has been here over the last two days as guest of the Raja Perempuan of Kelantan. Also at the airport were Kelantan Umno Chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed and leaders of Barisan Nasional component parties.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah then left by car for Tendong, Pasir Mas, for the opening of the Sultan Ismail Petra Bridge by the Sultan of Kelantan.

The 960-metre long bridge spanning the Sungai Kelantan was built by the Federal Government at a cost of RM166 million.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the bridge on Nov 26, 1999 and it is the third crossing over the Sungai Kelantan after Jambatan Sultan Yahya Petra and Jambatan Pasir Mas-Salor.

All three bridges link Kota Baharu to Pasir Mas, Tumpat and Golok in south Thailand through Rantau Panjang.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah will later have lunch with the Sultan and the Raja Perempuan at the Hotel Renaissance in Kota Baharu.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, will have a meeting with Kelantan Umno leaders at 3pm also at the same hotel.

The Prime Minister will then launch the Kelantan-level Farmers, Fishermen and Livestock Breeders Day at Sekolah Menengah Tanah Merah (I) in Tanah Merah.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah will attend a dinner with Federal Government staff at Dewan Putra Kompleks Sekolah-Sekolah Wakaf Mek Zainab here at 8.45pm.

--BERNAMA

ZI BD AAM