

15 MAY 2003

Mahathir-Sabah

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES IN SABAH FOR TWO-DAY VISIT

KOTA KINABALU, May 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here tonight for a two-day visit to Sabah.

The special aircraft carrying Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali landed at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport at 7.50pm.

On hand to greet them were Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman, deputy chief ministers, state cabinet ministers and heads of Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir will attend a dinner hosted by Sabah Umno, followed by a meeting with state Umno leaders.

Tomorrow morning, Dr Mahathir, who is also BN Chairman, will open the eighth congress of Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) in the interior town of Keningau, about 140km from here.

A traditional welcoming ceremony showcasing the cultural heritage of the people in the interior awaits Dr Mahathir at the town's community hall, the congress venue.

The PBRS is a BN component party headed by State Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Joseph Kurup.

In the afternoon, Dr Mahathir will perform Friday prayers at the City Mosque in Likas.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno President, would then perform the ground-breaking ceremony for the 14-storey Sabah Umno headquarters building, sited on a 0.5ha prime land in Karamunsing here.

The RM35-million headquarters, dubbed as a high-tech "intelligent" building, is seen by Sabah Umno as a dedication to Dr Mahathir for his contributions to the people of Sabah.

"It is a tribute to our Prime Minister for all that he has done for Sabah through Umno. It will be a historic moment when he officiates the ground-breaking ceremony for the building, which will be a symbol of our commitment to the people," said Musa, who is also Sabah Umno chairman.

Sabah is to hold a state election in less than a year.

Dr Mahathir will return to Kuala Lumpur in the evening.

-- BERNAMA

JS MK TS