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DR MAHATHIR'S VISIT WILL FORGE CLOSER TIES AMONG UMNO MEMBERS

KOTA KINABALU, May 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Sabah beginning May 15 will hopefully help to foster closer relations between the Umno leadership and party members, said Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Lajim Ukin.

"We are proud of the visit by a leader, statesman, and Umno leader who has brought development. For the state of Sabah, if it had not been for the Barisan Nasional government led by Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister, it is possible that we may not see the rapid development in the whole of Sabah," he said after chairing the meeting to coordinate Dr Mahathir's visit to the state, here today.

Lajim, who is also a member of the Umno Supreme Council, said even the people in the remote areas in Keningau were making preparations to welcome the prime minister who had ensured that development was also extended to the interior areas.

On Dr Mahathir's programme in Sabah, Lajim said the Umno president would attend a dinner and meeting with the Sabah Umno Liaison Committee after arriving at Terminal Two of the Kota Kinabalu International Airport at 8pm on Thursday.

On the next day, Dr Mahathir will go to Keningau to open the Annual Congress of the Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah before returning to Kota Kinabalu at noon to perform Friday prayers at Masjid Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu in Likas.

Lajim said at 3pm on Friday, Dr Mahathir would perform the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the Sabah Umno building which is estimated to cost RM35 million before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

-- BERNAMA

MK AO