

08 MAY 2003

Kurup-Mahathir

DR MAHATHIR'S VISIT EAGERLY AWAITED BY KENINGAU FOLK

KOTA KINABALU, May 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Keningau next Friday is eagerly awaited by the people there who want to thank him for the development that he has brought to the district, Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah president Tan Sri Joseph Kurup said today.

He said Keningau, located about 133km from here, had been transformed by the development carried out by the Barisan Nasional government since Dr Mahathir's last visit in 1998 to the interior district, which is populated by the Kadazandusun and Murut.

Recalling the visit, arranged by PBRs, Kurup said the prime minister had said then that the interior folk in Keningau were regarded as the adopted people.

"I suppose the PM wants to go there once more to see whether they are in a comfortable position because since his visit, many changes have occurred in Keningau," Kurup, who is state Youth and Sports Minister, said after launching the season pass for recreational activities at the Kota Kinabalu Sports Complex, here.

He said that from the feedback he had received the interior folk wanted to meet and thank Dr Mahathir who will be opening the eighth PBRs annual congress in Keningau that day.

Kurup also said that the prime minister's visit to Keningau showed that he was a leader who did not easily forget a person's contribution to the BN government.

He said PBRs was formed at a time when relations between the state and federal government were not that friendly and he believed that this was something that Dr Mahathir still remembered.

On the PBRs congress, he said no special motion would be tabled but the meeting this time was to amend the party constitution to clarify certain provisions.

Asked whether the amendments were to prevent a recurrence of the leadership tussle between him and his former deputy, Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan at the seventh congress last year, he said that that was a matter which needed to be strengthened and further clarified.

-- BERNAMA

MK JK