

29 OCT 2003

Koh-Abdullah

NEW PM SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT 3PM, SAYS DR KOH

PENANG, Oct 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who will take over from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Prime Minister on Friday, will arrive at the Bayan Lepas International Airport here at 3pm instead of 3.45pm on Saturday.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said between 10,000 and 20,000 people were expected to welcome and congratulate Abdullah at the airport.

Soon after arrival, Abdullah is expected to give his maiden speech as Prime Minister at the airport before heading for his hometown, Kepala Batas, escorted by motorcycle outriders, he told reporters after presenting cheques from the state government to the police and military here today.

Dr Koh said Abdullah would meet his mother Datuk Kailan Hassan and after the breaking of the fast, he would meet the people at the Masjid Al-Jamiul Badawi, not far from his house.

Penang Police Chief Datuk Othman Talib, meanwhile, said some 300 traffic police personnel would ensure the safety of the convoy of motorcycle outriders escorting Abdullah.

Several roads including the Penang Bridge and the North-South Highway will be closed in stages to provide the smooth journey for Abdullah's convoy to Kepala Batas.

State Traffic Chief DSP Nordin Manan said the road closure would begin immediately after end of the welcoming reception at the airport.

"It would help to facilitate movement of some 1,000 superbikes from the airport to Kepala Batas where they will be joined by another 1,000 motorcycles at the Penang Bridge Toll Plaza," he told reporters.

He said Abdullah's convoy would pass through Jalan Tun Dr Awang, Bertam Toll Plaza, Jalan Ahmad Badawi and end in Jalan Perak in Kepala Batas.

Nordin later handed over his duties to acting Supt Wan Abdullah Tuanku Said, 50, who was Deputy OCPD of Pasir Mas in Kelantan.

-- BERNAMA

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