

13 FEB 2003

PM'S BUSY SCHEDULE IN JB TOMORROW

JOHOR BAHRU, Feb 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will have a tight schedule during his one-day visit to the city tomorrow.

An Information Department statement said he is expected to arrive at the Senai Airport at 8.45am and later attend the Integrated Southern Gateway and housing development project ground-breaking ceremony here.

The project will change the city's image, especially with the construction of the new Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex (CIQ) on the 41 hectare -- about 0.7 kilometre from the Johor Causeway.

Project developer, Gerbang Perdana Sdn Bhd, would also divert traffic flow from the city to ease road congestion because the CIQ complex would link the North-South Highway, said the statement.

The project also includes the construction of 100-metre wide navigational channel that would allow 4,000 DWT vessels pass the straits, once the Malaysian side of the causeway is demolished.

The road and rail bridge, part of the project, are expected to be completed in April 2007 while the CIQ complex in 34 months.

After the ceremony Dr Mahathir will attend the Friday prayers at the Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque, followed by a luncheon at the Johor menteri besar's official residence in Saujana, said the statement.

At 3pm, he would be briefed about another mega project -- the Danga Bay mixed project along Tebrau Straits.

Located on a 70-hectare land, Danga Bay includes the construction of condominiums, which is almost completed and a public park at Pantai Lido that would be opened in June.

He is expected to meet Johor Sultan in Istana Bukit Serene before ending his visit to the city at 6pm.

-- BERNAMA

MNY MNY VP