

DR. MAHATHIR GIVES SABAH GOVERNMENT
A PAT ON THE BACK

The Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed on Sunday commended the Sabah Government for having achieved a faster pace of development than other states in Malaysia.

At this rate of progress the state will receive more funds even before the mid term review of the Third Malaysia Plan, he said.

Speaking at a press conference here yesterday, before returning to Kuala Lumpur after a five-day official visit he predicted a bright future for Sabah in view of the abundant natural resources waiting for exploitation. This depended much on the willingness of the people to work hard.

Dr. Mahathir also expressed satisfaction that the political situation in Sabah was settled now and 'much more stable'. Even though some political antagonisms remain this was not serious as to prevent any obstacles to development.

The Chief Minister Datuk Harris Salleh who was present at the conference revealed that the inaugural meeting of the Sabah State Barisan Nasional Coordinating Committee would be held in Kota Kinabalu on May 26. He is Chairman of the committee.

The Federal Minister of Primary Industries, Datuk Musa Hitam will attend the meeting as an observer from the Barisan Nasional Central.

On the influx of refugees from Southern Philippines, Dr. Mahathir said from now on the Government would be more stringent towards new arrivals. However the 90,000 refugees already in Sabah would be allowed to stay if they meet all the stipulated requirements.

Referring to the implementation of the Cabinet Salary Report in Sabah and Sarawak, he said it would be slightly delayed as adjustments would have to be made to suit the administrative system and scheme of service in the two states.

Dr. Mahathir and his wife Datin Siti Hasmah were seen off by Datuk Harris, Datin Rupiah, Tuan Haji Mohd. Noor Mansor, Encik Lim Guan Sing, Community leaders and Senior Government Officials.

Before departing the F28 jet Dr. Mahathir inspected a Guard Of Honour mounted by 53 Officers and men of The Royal Malaysian Air Force.

KUALA LUMPUR,
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(dari Sabah melalui taliprinter)
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