

HAHATHIR-RECREATION
BM

84 (P)
KUALALUMPUR, APRIL 9 (BERNAMA)-- A RECREATIONAL COMPLEX WITH VARIOUS FACILITIES WILL BE BUILT ON A 2,000-HECTARE SITE IN SUNGAI BESI MERE* PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHAHTIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY. TO BE BUILT IN STAGE OVER 15 YEARS, THE COMPLEX WOULD HAVE FACILITIES FOR BOATING, WATER-SKIING, SWIMMING, GOLF AND A STADIUM FOR OTHER SPORTING EVENTS, HE SAID.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER A VISIT TO THE SITE OF THE \$480 MILLION PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMPLEX WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO PROMOTE TOURISM, ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE 'PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT AND VARIOUS INCENTIVES', SUCH AS TAX HOLIDAYS WOULD BE OFFERED TO HELP THEM. -- MORE 2026/PA
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HE SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE MORE FACILITIES TO ENCOURAGE THE LOCAL PEOPLE TO TRAVEL AND ONE WAY TO DO THAT WAS THROUGH HAVING SUCH RECREATION COMPLEXES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT CONSIDER REDUCING FARES FOR DOMESTIC TRAVEL TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO TRAVEL WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND GET TO KNOW BETTER THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

HE ALSO REITERATED THE NEED TO REDUCE HOTEL RATES TO ENABLE THE LOCAL HOTEL INDUSTRY COMPETE WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY SINGAPORE.

SERVICES AND CLEANLINESS MUST ALSO BE IMPROVED FURTHER TO ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS, HE ADDED.

ON THE PUTRA WORLD CENTRE PROJECT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS.

THE PROJECT WAS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

THE UMNO HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX WAS BEING BUILT ON A FIVE-HECTARE SITE AT JALAN TUN ISMAIL AND INCLUDED A 41-STOREY OFFICE TOWER BLOCK, AN EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE AND A 600-ROOM PAN PACIFIC HOTEL.

-- MORE 2108/PA

ZCZC N152

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THE HOTEL, OPWNED BY SERI PACIFIC CORPORATION SDNBHD., -- A JOINT-VENTURE COMPANY" BETWEEN UMNO SEIRING SDN. BHD. ,MAS, TOKYU HOTELS'INTERNATIONAL AND KRC HOLDINGS SDN BHD -- WOULD BE MANAGED BY THE TOKYU INTERNATIONALS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ACCOMPANIED BY FINANCE MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGHHAMZAH WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UMNO COMPLEX BUILDING COMMITTEE, SPENT ABOUT 90 MINUTES TOURING THE COMPLEX.

SERI PACIFIC CORPORATION CHAIRMAN DATUK ABDUL RAHIM RAHMAN, IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH, SAID HIS CORPORATION WAS CONVINCED THAT THE WHOLE COMPLEX WOULD BE READY FOR OPERATION BY OCROBER NEXT YEAR.

HE SAID THE MARKETING CAMPAIGN FOR THE COMPLEX WAS LAUNCHED LAST DECEMBER AND 31 CONFIRMED BOOKINGS FOR THE EXHIBITION CENTRE HAD SO FAR BEEN SECURED FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1985 TO DECEMBER 1987.

AMONG THE IMPORTANT CONVENTIONS TO BE -HELD WOULD BE THE ASEAN COUNCIL OF PETROLEUM (ASCOPE) HOSTED BY PETRONAS IN NOVEMBER NEXT YEAR AND THE PATACONFERENCE IN 1986. -- MORE 2114/SL

ZCZC N153

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HE SAID THE CENTRE'S CONVENTION HALL WOULD BE-ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE 6,000 PEOPLE.

IT WOULD ALSO HAVE TWO OTHER HALLS, EACH CA-PABLE OF ACCOMODATING 1,000 PEOPLE, PLUS 13 CONFERENCE ROOMS FOR BETWEEN 50 AND 100 PEOPLE.

DATUK ABDUL RAHIM SAID THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE WOULD HAVE THE BIGGEST CONVENTION HALL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA:

-- BERNAMA 2117/SL