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LANGKAWI, NOV. 22 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS CALLED ON THE PEOPLE OF PULAU LANGKAWI TO GRASP THE OPPORTUNITIES BROUGHT ABOUT BY RAPID DEVELOPMENT ON THE ISLAND. THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS WERE SPENDING \$1 BILLION TO DEVELOP THE ISLAND, HE TOLD A MEETING OF KEDAH UMNO LEADERS HERE YESTERDAY.

IN ADDITION, A PRIVATE COMPANY, PROMET BERHAD, WOULD INVEST MILLIONS OF RINGGIT TO TURN THE ISLAND INTO A TOURIST RESORT, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT PROMET HAS AGREED TO INVEST HERE AT HIS REQUEST. THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE LOCAL PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE INVESTMENT. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD ASKED PROMET TO INVEST HERE BECAUSE HE HAD WORKED HERE IN 1956 AND WAS AWARE OF THE PEOPLE'S DESIRE FOR DEVELOPMENT.

HE CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND INCREASE THEIR

HE ALSO SAID HE HAD ASKED PROMET TO GIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO LOCAL CONTRACTORS TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS PROJECTS AND TO BUILD MORE LOCAL STALLS FOR LOCAL PETTY TRADERS TO CARRY OUT BUSINESS.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PROMET HAD AGREED TO TRAIN LOCAL PEOPLE TO ENABLE THEM HOLD HIGHER POSTS IN THE COMPANY. -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT CERTAIN QUARTERS HERE WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THE WAY PROMET WAS IMPLEMENTING ITS PROJECT ON THE ISLAND.

HOWEVER, ANY DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE SETTLED THROUGH DISCUSSIONS, HE SAID.

HE HAD DIRECTED PROMET TO OPEN AN OFFICE HERE FOR SPEEDY SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS WITH LOCAL CONTRACTORS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BEGAN A THREE-DAY VISIT TO THE ISLAND YESTERDAY TO INSPECT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. -- BERNAMA

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