

DB04

B E315 AAE
MAHATHIR-TOURISM
BM

86
KUALA TERENGGANU, NOV 1 (BERNAMA) -- THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S TOURISM SECTOR IN FUTURE WILL BE MORE ORIENTED TOWARDS FULFILLING THE NEEDS OF DOMESTIC TOURISM, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE SULTAN MAHMUD AIRPORT HERE BEFORE RETURNING TO KUALA LUMPUR AFTER A TWO-DAY VISIT TO TERENGGANU.

HE SAID THIS WAS DECIDED IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING INCLINATION AMONG MALAYSIANS TO GO HOLIDAYING AND SIGHT-SEEING.

+THIS WILL HELP CHECK OUTFLOW OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND REVITALISE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A 100-ROOM MEDIUM CLASS HOTEL WOULD BE BUILT SOON AT PULAU PERHENTIAN NOT FAR FROM BESUT COAST. -- MORE
1824MST 01 11 86

DB05

B E316 AAE
MAHATHIR-TOURISM 2 KUALA TERENGGANU

MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD WHO WAS PRESENT CHIPPED IN, SAYING THE STATE GOVERNMENT HOPED THE HOTEL WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

APART FROM THE HOTEL, SEVERAL OTHER TOURIST PROJECTS WOULD ALSO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE SITE AREA OF THE KENYIR HYDRO-ELECTRIC DAM IN HULU TERENGGANU, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID THE COST OF THE HOTEL TO BE BUILT BY A PRIVATE COMPANY IN WHICH THE TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR CORPORATION HAD SOME EQUITY HAD NOT BEEN ESTIMATED YET.

+HOWEVER, THE COST OF BUILDING EACH ROOM OF THE HOTEL IS NOT EXPECTED TO EXCEED \$50,000,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE HOTEL TO BE BUILT ON A SIX-HECTARE SITE WOULD ATTRACT MORE LOCAL TOURISTS TO PULAU PERHENTIAN.

PEOPLE WERE KEEN TO VISIT THE PLACE BUT LACK OF BASIC FACILITIES AT PRESENT WAS INHIBITING THEM, HE SAID. -- MORE
1828MST 01 11 86

DB11

B E321 AAE
MAHATHIR-TOURISM 3 KUALA TERENGGANU

ACCORDING TO THE HOTEL DESIGN, A LONGHOUSE WOULD ALSO BE BUILT NEARBY TO ACT AS A DORMITORY FOR TOURISTS NOT ABLE TO AFFORD THE ROOM RATES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AFTER VISITING THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED HOTEL, HE WAS CONFIDENT THE AREA'S SCENIC BEAUTY, CLEAR WATER AND ITS FLORA AND FAUNA WOULD MAKE PULAU PERHENTIAN ANOTHER MAJOR TOURIST RESORT IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO ALSO VISITED TASIK KENYIR SAID MANY AREAS THERE INCLUDING ISLANDS AND WATERFALLS EMPTYING INTO THE LAKE COULD BE DEVELOPED AS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THE SAFETY OF TOURISTS WHO WISHED TO BATHE IN THE LAKE WOULD BE ASSURED ONCE WORK TO CLEAR THE LAKE OF SUBMERGED TREES AND OTHER TIMBER WAS COMPLETED.

(MOST OF THE LAKE AT ONE TIME WAS VIRGIN JUNGLE VALLEY WITH HIGH RISING HILLS BUT WHEN THE DAM WAS BUILT AND WATER PUMPED IN FOR THE HYDRO PROJECT, THE JUNGLE WAS SUBMERGED WITH THE TIPS OF THE HILLS BECOMING ISLANDS). -- MORE
1847MST 01 11 86

0812

B E322 AAE
MAHATHIR-TOURISM 4 KUALA TERENGGANU

RETURNING TO THE POINT OF HOTELS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE COUNTRY DID NOT NEED MORE FIVE-STAR HOTELS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S REDUCED EXPENDITURE ON THE TOURIST SECTOR TO SAVE ON FUNDS WOULD NOT AFFECT AREAS WHERE DEVELOPMENT HAD BEGUN BUT HAD NOT BEEN FULLY COMPLETED.

SUCH AREAS WOULD STILL BE GIVEN ATTENTION.

HE SAID TERENGGANU HAD SEVERAL AREAS WITH SCENIC BEAUTY BUT TOURISTS DID NOT VISIT THEM BECAUSE OF LACK OF BASIC AMENITIES. --
BERNAMA

1849MST 01 11 86