

U43/

U E322 AAE

MAHATHIR

BM

LANGKAWI, OCT 6 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED LAND OWNERS HERE NOT TO SELL THEIR PROPERTY BUT INSTEAD COLLABORATE WITH INTERESTED PARTIES TO BUILD HOTELS ON THEM.

HE SAID IN VIEW OF LANGKAWI'S POTENTIAL AS A TOURIST-ATTRACTION, THE ISLAND NEEDS MORE LOW AND MEDIUM COST AS WELL AS LUXURY-HOTELS.

LOCAL LANDOWNERS MUST OPERATE THESE HOTELS ON A JOINT-VENTURE BASIS AS THEY COULD NOT AFFORD TO DO IT BY THEMSELVES.

+ALTHOUGH LAND IN LANGKAWI FETCHES HIGH PRICES NOW, LAND OWNERS MUST NOT SELL THEM OFF+, HE TOLD REPORTERS AT PELANGI BEACH RESORT IN PANTAI CHENANG AFTER A TOUR OF THE ISLAND.

HE SAID HOTEL DEVELOPMENT WOULD BENEFIT LANGKAUI ISLANDERS AND CREATE MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES;

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ITS BEST TO DEVELOP LANGKAWI.

HE SAID WHILE IN GREECE RECENTLY HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL TOURIST ATTRACTIONS THERE AND WAS STUDYING WHETHER SIMILAR EFFORTS COULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN LANGKAWI.

ON MOVES TO TURN LANGKAWI INTO +BALI NUMBER TWO+ HE SAID, +LANGKAWI IS MALAYSIA'S NUMBER ONE, WHY MAKE IT NUMBER TWO?+

ON PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WHO WOULD HAVE A RETREAT HERE DURING THE MEETING THIS MONTH, HE SAID EVERYTHING IS READY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY EVENING, VISITED THE NEW JETTY AT KUAH, THE MAHSURI TOMB, THE GOLF COURSE AND PULAU SINGABESAR, ACCOMPANIED BY FINANCE MINISTER DATUK PADUKA DAIM ZAINUDDIN -- BERNAMA

1749MST 06 10 a9