

PM: Take part in Langkawi's progress

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LANGKAWI, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today described Langkawi as a "gold mine" and urged residents of the island to capitalise on its enormous resources.

He said unless they managed to participate in the rapid economic development on the island they will be left out of the progress that is steadily coming to

the island.

He listed several ways of achieving this including buying shares in hotels and other large businesses, starting tourist-related businesses on their own, or making small chalets or special rooms for tourists.

He said the number of tourists to the free-port island would increase greatly next year due to the Visit

Malaysia Year 1990 campaign.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the *Sehati Jiwa Seia Sekata* (meeting the people) session at Lubuk Semilang here today.

Thousands of local residents turned out to meet him and pledged support for his leadership.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Government had

provided the infrastructure on the island including the free-port status.

"It is now up to the residents here to capitalise on these infrastructure to the fullest," he said.

The Prime Minister said that youths and local businessmen who participated in tourist-related businesses and services should learn English to enable them to

talk to foreign tourists.

He reminded businessmen and others on the island not to cut down trees rampantly in the process of constructing hotels, chalets and other structures.

He later planted a durian tree near the spot and visited the Mahsuri Tomb at Ulu Melaka.

Dr Mahathir is expected to return to Kuala Lumpur tomorrow morning.