

# PLAN WELL TO STAY VIABLE URGES PM

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SEPANG, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged those involved in the tourism industry to be farsighted to ensure that they remain competitive.

"Tourism is a long-term investment and a little of what we earn today should be set aside for tomorrow," he said.

They should also ensure that the industry continued to benefit everyone, he added.

The Prime Minister said courtesy and hospitality were important to ensure that tourists continued to return to Malaysia on holiday.

"If we treat them a little better, we can earn more of their money. Let's not put sand in our rice bowl by adopting a negative attitude," he said when opening the \$500,000 Bagan Lallang beach resort here.

As an example, he cited an in-

stance when a fisherman who rented his boat to a tourist to visit an island but refused to agree to the tourist's request to stay longer.

"The fisherman felt that there was no point agreeing since the tourist would only come once," he said.

Dr Mahathir said such an attitude only adversely affected the industry because the tourist could later complain to his friends of his bad experience in the country.

On the *Visit Malaysia Year*, he said the country had gained much from it, including more revenue.

He said that when a tourist spent money, it not benefited the Government but also the hotel and tourist resort operators which provided employment to the people and food suppliers.

Dr Mahathir said that for every

\$1 profit the tourist industry earned, the Government received 35 sen in tax and from this tax, the Government was able to provide facilities such as clinics, roads and bridges to the people.

The six-chalet resort is managed by the Sepang District De-

velopment Corporation.

The resort, developed two years ago, also has two meeting halls, a dining hall and a surau.

The Government is building a sports complex with tennis, volleyball and football playing facilities.