

# Dr M: Make use of opportunities

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MALACCA, Tues. — Tourism brings benefits to anyone who is willing to take up opportunities offered by the industry, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said foodstall owners, souvenir sellers and others who ventured into tourism related businesses could reap a handsome harvest if they were hardworking.

Dr Mahathir said the notion that only those who invested millions in tourist-related industries benefited from it was not true.

He said Malacca was a prime example of balanced

distribution of tourism revenue.

"Anyone who visits Malacca can see the number of small businesses that have mushroomed to cater to the needs of tourists.

"Furthermore, the Government is prepared to assist those who want to venture into such businesses by providing them with capital and the know-how. We want more people to improve their living standards by venturing into the lucrative tourist trade," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who was speaking at the opening of the Golden Valley Golf Resort, said he was impressed with tourism development in Malacca.

The Golden Valley Golf Resort is designed and will be developed by Obayashi Corporation which has built 105 golf courses overseas and is currently working on 28 courses all over the world.

The proposed 54-hole course has been hailed as the second largest in the world and the first 18 holes are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Dr Mahathir expressed hope the project would further promote Malacca as a tourist destination.

"It has been said that Hang Tuah had been in this area. Since tourism projects are sometimes linked to legends, maybe we should use

his name to further promote the project.

"If we can say that Hang Tuah played golf here, the project will surely be a hit," he said to laughter from the crowd.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir opened the Taman Mini Asean Cultural Park at Air Keroh. The park consists of traditional houses and depicts the cultures of the Asean nations.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said Malacca had tremendous tourism potential which could be further developed.

He said he was fascinated with the various tourist attractions which could benefit the people.