

Dr M: Hotels will be ready for exhibition

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TELUK BURAU (Langkawi), Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that there will be adequate accommodation facilities in Langkawi in time for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (LIMA-91) from Nov 11 to 15.

Towards this end, the Prime Minister has directed the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) to complete the five-star 300-room Sheraton Langkawi Resort project in Teluk Nibong and the 304-room Kuala Muda Beach Resort project within two months.

Cruise ships would be hired to help ease whatever accommodation constraints that might arise, he added.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters at the Teluk Burau Bay Resort where he

personally inspected the progress of the construction of accommodation facilities on the island and other preparations for LIMA-91.

He said about 3,000 rooms were needed to accommodate participants from more than 20 countries.

"Presently, there are 2,000 rooms. But only between 200 and 300 rooms are available for the participants because the rest have been booked by tourists. It looks like we are faced with inadequate accommodation. But we are confident that the problem can be overcome."

Earlier, Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Lada general manager Haji Abdul Halil Mutalib and other officials, visited Padang Mat Sirat International Airport, Kuala Muda Beach Resort, Sheraton Langkawi Resort in Teluk Nibong and Teluk Datai Beach Resort.

Dr Mahathir said he was satisfied with the progress of the construction of the accommodation facilities.

On the expansion of the Padang Mat Sirat airport, Dr Mahathir said the construction had been completed.

"Only the installation of additional facilities for electricity supply has not been made and Tenaga Nasional has promised to provide the necessary facilities as soon as possible."

Dr Mahathir also said individuals and companies as well as government representatives interested in buying aviation and maritime facilities will be invited to the exhibition.

Among the countries that will take part in LIMA-91 are the US, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, the Soviet Union and Australia.

The first three days of the exhibition will be restricted to the business community.