

Lima '91 a platform to make island

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Major role for

By Saiful Azhar Abdullah

KUALA MUDA (Langkawi), Sun. — The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (Lima '91) will be a platform for establishing

Pulau Langkawi as a maritime and aviation trade centre, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The prospects for making Pulau Langkawi a trade centre for maritime and aviation facilities are good because of the strong and dynamic economic growth of the Asean and East Asia regions, he added.

Dr Mahathir said Langkawi could be a centre for the trading of private jets, commuter planes, trainer and sports aircraft and pleasure boats.

"Lima '91 will stimulate efforts to establish Pulau Langkawi as the maritime and aviation trade centre."

Dr Mahathir said the market for small aircraft and pleasure boats was good in view of the rapid economic growth in the region.

The Prime Minister was speaking to newsmen at the De Lima hotel here at the end of a day-long visit to Pulau Langkawi to check preparations for Lima '91 which is scheduled for Nov 11 to 15.

De Lima is the new name for the Lada resort hotel at Kuala Muda. The 300-room chalet-type hotel was undertaken as an emergency project to meet the accommodation needs of the exhibition. It was completed in less than two months.

Dr Mahathir also saw preparations at the Langkawi International airport, Sheraton Langkawi Resort and Langkawi Village Resort.

He said if Lima '91 proves

to be a success, it would be made a biennial affair in Pulau Langkawi.

He said preparations were progressing well, and it would be ready in time for the exhibition.

"The accommodation problem has been overcome following the completion of the 300-room De Lima hotel," he said.

Dr Mahathir praised turnkey contractor Woodhouse Sdn Bhd, which undertook the construction of the hotel for fulfilling its promise to complete the construction in 53 days.

The Prime Minister said he found that the services at the hotel were above the three-star rating.

On reports that rooms and food on the island were overpriced, Dr Mahathir said the matter had been resolved, adding that the prices would be reasonable.

"De Lima hotel, which is a three-star hotel is only charging \$100 per room," he added.

Dr Mahathir advised Langkawi residents not to hamper the island's future by increasing the prices for accommodation, food and goods.

"I hope the residents will benefit from Lima '91, but they must not exploit the event to earn quick profits by increasing prices.

"They have to think about the island's future because if tourists feel cheated, they will not return to the island," he added.

Among those accompanying Dr Mahathir in the visit were Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) chairman Tun Daim Zainuddin, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and deputy secretary-general of the Defence Ministry Raja Datuk Seri Jaafar Raja Musa.

maritime, aviation trade centre

Langkawi