

PM: Turn Langkawi into a 'gold mint!'

S 12 NOV 1991

LANGKAWI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that Langkawi should be fully developed in all areas of tourism and not become merely a tourist destination.

"A successful island resort would not suffice for Langkawi.

"It should be turned into a tourism gold mine where people can invest

in infrastructure connected with the tourism industry.

"There are avenues which need to be developed and upgraded to achieve that, such as better infrastructures, shops and supermarkets."

Dr Mahathir said that with the proposed aviation maritime industry in Langkawi, the island resort had to be developed

in a more comprehensive way.

He noted the growing property market in Langkawi where condominiums were being built to cater to the expected influx of residents including expatriates.

He was speaking at the launching of the photographic book *Langkawi — Legends* in the Paradise by Mr C.T. Fong at a hotel

in Pantai Cenang here.

Dr Mahathir hit out at traders on the island for abusing their tax-free status.

"It is too bad that there are unscrupulous people who have taken advantage of the tax-free privilege to sell things at a higher price," he said.

"I would like to apologise for this undesirable situation."