

Prime Minister disappointed
with some island hoteliers

Lima '91 a major success, says Dr M

NST 16 NOV 1991

By Saiful
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LANGKAWI, Fri. The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima '91) exhibition is a remarkable success, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said today.

"The success is beyond our expectations in view of it being our maiden air show," Dr Mahathir told newsmen on the last day of Lima '91.

Dr Mahathir said organising and ensuring the success of the air show was not easy, more so since Malaysia is a developing country.

"Not many developing countries are organising air shows but Malaysia has achieved success in its first attempt."

The Prime Minister said the Government had earlier planned to organise a small affair for private and commuter aircraft.

"But due to the good reputation achieved by the country and the organisers of the Paris-Langkawi air show last year, many countries decided to participate in Lima '91.

"Countries like the Soviet Union, the United States and Australia had decided to participate by sending combat fighters and transport planes that converted the air show into a major aerospace exhibition," said Dr Mahathir.

He said the Government had also given financial assistance to the organisers of the air show to ensure that the exhibition succeeded.

However, the Prime Minister said he was disappointed with certain hoteliers on the island for refusing to provide accommodation facilities to the agent handling accommodation of participants.

He was also unhappy that certain hoteliers cancelled the bookings made by Trans Malaysia, the agent responsible for Lima '91's accommodation needs. This has caused inconvenience to some exhibitors.

Dr Mahathir said these irresponsible hoteliers were trying to reap a huge profit by cancelling the bookings without considering the interest and image of the nation.

"These hoteliers are unaware that their action

would tarnish the image of the country and affect the hotel industry," he added.

The Prime Minister said before the Government decided to organise Lima '91, it had considered whether there was adequate accommodation facilities.

"After knowing that we would have sufficient rooms, we decided to hold Lima '91," he said.

"I am very disappointed. We can increase the room rates slightly but trying to 'blackmail' people in their desperation is irresponsible.

"I would like to advise those in business to learn the ethics of business," said the Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir said he had checked with Trans Malaysia about the problem and was informed that the hoteliers had refused to attend a meeting with the tour agent to discuss the arrangements for the payment of the rooms.

"The exhibition is not for the organisers to earn as much profit as possible but it is to lift the image of the country," he added.

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