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SEVENTY-TWO HOURS STAY IN LANGKAWI TO QUALIFY FOR TAX EXEMPTION
SUFFICIENT

Mahathir - tax 92 (10)
LANGKAWI, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- The 72-hour stay in Langkawi to qualify for tax exemption cannot be further reduced to 48 hours as suggested by some, Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) said today.

The 72-hour requirement was to encourage tourists to stay longer on the island, he told reporters at the Langkawi International Airport before leaving for Kuala Lumpur after a day's visit here.

If the period was further reduced it would affect the business of hotels on the island, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the government was unable to consider the proposal to reduce the tax rate on items brought out of the island in view of the many other incentives that had already been given. -- more

♥31/01/19-39MST

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Mahathir - tax 2 Langkawi.

The Prime Minister said the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) had been directed to build comfortable hotels but with low room rates to cater for tourists and visitors.

The Langkawi International Airport would also be expanded and it would have a longer runway to cater for bigger charter aircraft such as from Japan and Europe bringing in tourists, he said.

The Prime Minister said Langkawi residents had benefited much from the government's development plans for the island.

The island's free port status had pushed up the prices of their land and they could buy tax free cars and need only pay half the road tax rate, he added. -- more

♥31/01/19-44MST

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Mahathir - tax 3 Langkawi

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said certain people were instigating Langkawi residents into discrediting the government's development programmes on the island.

Such instigators probably did not own land on the island, he said and rejected claims that the government was robbing people of their land.

How could anyone make such an allegation when the government had spent millions of ringgit to develop Langkawi and this had immensely benefited the local residents, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir toured various development projects on the island and made an aerial inspection of the Pulau Payar Marine Park.

Earlier he launched the +Smart Cards+ at the Kedah Marble Sdn Bhd souvenir shop.

The cards issued by Syarikat SmartCard Systems (M) Sdn Berhad would enable the people to buy items made of marble and souvenirs at the shop and at the Kedah Marble factory at Bukit Putih, Kuala.

The cards are like the telephone cards but are priced at \$100, \$500, \$1000 and \$5000. -- Bernama

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