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DON'T OVERCHARGE, MAHATHIR WARNS TRAVEL INDUSTRY

Mahathir-hospitality

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PULAU KAPAS (TERENGGANU), July 14, (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned tourism operators that overcharging for their services can spell death for the nation's hospitality industry.

Local chalet operators should think of reaping long-term gains by working for moderate but continuous profits, he said when opening the Primula Kapas Island Village Resort here.

Dr Mahathir criticised some greedy chalet operators who overcharged their guests for uncomfortable accommodation.

+Profits earned this way don't last as guests will talk of being cheated to pay high fares for lousy service,+ he said.

The Prime Minister cited the case of a Pulau Langkawi hotel which charged \$1,000 a day for accommodation which was nothing much in terms of comfort.

He said the hotel, 's steep rate had so much so undermined the island's duty-free status -- more

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Mahathir-hospitality 2 (last) Pulau Kapas

Dr Mahathir said hotel operators could afford to build comfortable but cheap rooms if they had long-term planning.

He said a hotel with such long-term plans has begun construction of 1,200 rooms in Langkawi and promised the service and comfort of a five-star resort charging only \$55 per night for accommodation.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad in his speech said the Terengganu government has received 25 applications from companies intending to further develop the local tourism industry.

Of the number, five applications have been referred to the local authorities for consideration, he said.

Primula Kapas Island Village Resort is owned by the state economic development corporation.

There are 10 semi-detached and 20 detached chalets, there.

Primula Resort. Management chairman. Datuk Abu Bakar Daud and the Prime Minister's wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali were also present. -- Bernama

▼14/07/16-55MST