
PM: Redang marine life in good hands

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By Rosli Zakaria

PULAU REDANG, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he was satisfied with the measures taken by Redang Island Resort to control sedimentation and protect marine life at the site of its \$342 million project.

"I find the project is okay although at first I thought it was not suitable for the island. I hope the company will continue to protect the areas surrounding the project," he told reporters after a tour of the island and a visit to the project site.

The Prime Minister and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, who were on their first official visit to the island, were accompanied by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, Public Enterprises

Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor and Deputy Primary Industries Minister Datuk Tengku Mahmud Mansor.

The Redang Island Resort project, covering an area of 157.8 hectares, includes the development of an 18-hole golf course, a club house, a 100-room international class hotel, a sports complex and a tourist centre, under the first phase.

On the problem of water supply that could affect the project, Dr Mahathir said that it was up to the developer to look into ways to solve the problem.

"They may have to bring in the supply by barge or through a pipeline from the mainland. They can even set up a desalination plant or simply collect rain water," he added.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir told the residents of Pulau Redang that they must capitalise on the available re-

sources on the island to increase their incomes.

He said fishermen on the island could take up the challenge to venture into deep-sea fishing where the returns are higher.

"If they cannot venture into deep-sea fishing independently, they should set up co-operatives so that they can buy bigger boats. They must manage the co-operatives well to ensure continued success."

Another alternative is for the islanders to go into the tourism industry by building chalets for low-budget tourists because there was also a need for such facilities on Pulau Redang.

Dr Mahathir said the people could enjoy the benefits of development if they were willing to put in extra effort which could also improve their incomes and help them to move out of the poverty circle.