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TOURISM PROJECTS NEED NOT HAVE BAD EFFECT ON ENVIRONMENT

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1⁹² (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight tourism projects need not necessarily have a bad effect on the environment.

With close planning the development of that sector could be managed and expanded to a level that would not jeopardise nature, the Prime Minister said.

+As such the implementation of development projects should be planned so that a particular area will be free of pollution during the construction period or as a result of increase in the number of consumers in the area,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir was launching the Publicity Campaign for Visit Malaysia Year (VMY) 1994 at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here tonight.

He said if developers of the tourist industry destroyed the beauty of the Malaysian environment particularly at tourist resorts, the country's attractions would be lost and foreign tourists would not be interested in coming here. -- more

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Tourism projects 2 Kuala Lumpur

He believed that people who had been following developments about the changes in the environment realised the need to balance tourist sector progress involving physical development with the need to protect and preserve the natural environment.

Dr Mahathir said the cultural heritage and the arts were also specialities which could be offered to foreign tourists apart from Malaysia's natural beauty.

He also stressed the importance of tour operators making domestic tourism as the basis for the growth of the tourist industry in view of its stronger position.

+This is because domestic tourism can reduce the effects arising from problems adversely affecting tourist movements such as the threat of war, economic decline and income which are likely to restrict the capacity of foreigners to go on holiday.+

Dr Mahathir reiterated his call to tour operators to give priority to long term interests by giving good service to tourists. -- Bernama

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