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LANGKAWI NEEDS LOTS OF LOW-COST ACCOMMODATION, SAYS PM
Mahathir-Accommodation

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LANGKAWI, Oct 24¹ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today advised chalet operators on this island to have more low-cost and comfortable accommodation to attract return visitors from tourists.

He said the attitude of small-time chalet operators here, who were only concerned about making short-term profits but not about providing comfort, would not attract tourists in the long run.

The Prime Minister, who is on a one-day working visit here, told a press conference that Langkawi's development depended on the influx of tourists coming to enjoy its natural beauty.

He said this was proved by the full occupancy of the low-cost DeLima Resort at Pantai Chenang here which had 1,200 rooms.

He said the government was willing to extend financial help to chalet operators here who wanted to set up budget hotels offering good service and accommodation. -- more

▼24/10/18-15MST

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Mahathir-Accommodation 2 Langkawi

Dr Mahathir said the government had spent about \$1 billion to equip Langkawi with various infrastructural facilities such as roads, water supply and an airport even though it (the government) would not profit a sen due to the island's duty-free status.

He said his visit here today had showed him that island, home of the famous Mashuri legends, had the potential to record sterling development, in the future.

He said this was evident by the increase in the number of visitors arriving here by air which in turn had prompted Malaysia Airlines (MAS) to increase their flights here from seven to 12 daily.

MAS was now using the bigger Airbus aircraft and no longer the Boeing 737 to cater for the increased passenger load, he added.

The Prime Minister also said the government was studying a proposal to open a barter trade zone at Telok Ewa here together Thailand and Myanmar. -- more

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Mahathir-Accommodation 3 (last) Langkawi

He said the opening of stall lots at Telaga Air Hangat could turn the area into a prime business location,

Dr Mahathir hoped the island's traders now doing business at worn-down stalls would shift to the new stalls there.

They would of course have to pay rent for the stalls if they wanted to enjoy the higher returns which the new location would provide them, he said.

Dr Mahathir also, said the government would not spend more than the \$10 million allocated to provide the site of the 1993 Langkawi International Maritime and Air (LIMA '93) show.

He said costs could be reduced if the project was privatised.

While here, the Prime Minister visited Telok Datai, Telok Ewa, Telaga Air Hangat, Gunung Raya, Jeti Buah and Bukit Malut.

He was accompanied by leading private sector developers and senior officials from the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) and the District Office. -- Bernama

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