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LANGKAWI BEACHES NOW FREE OF OIL SPILL

Mahathir-spill

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LANGKAWI, Oct 25^{1 ar} (Bernama). -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, satisfied with measures taken to clean beaches here of oil spill ~~from the~~ ill-fated Nagasaki Spirit, has commended Langkawi District Office and others involved for a job well done.

The beaches were now clean with no traces of oil even in waters off the beaches, he told reporters, at the airport here before returning to Kuala Lumpur today after a one-day working visit to inspect development projects implemented on the island.

The tanker, which was involved in a collision with a container ship, Ocean Blessing in the Straits of Melaka on Sept 20, spilled tonnes of oil into the sea, threatening to pollute tourist frequented beaches on the island as well as in other parts of the west coast states..

Asked of any special measures to prevent similar recurrence, he said there was none because the country lacked the facilities and manpower.

He said it was not due to slow response of anybody that the oil spill reached Langkawi but due to lack of equipment and manpower. --more

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Mahathir-spill 2 (last) Langkawi

Dr Mahathir said the Department of Environment (DOE) had taken the necessary measures, including acquiring more equipment to counter future oil spill:

On claims that unskilled foreign workers on the island were getting paid more than \$1,000 a month compared to the islanders, he said that was the reward for their efforts.

But, he said the people of Langkawi were no less well off with some leading comfortable life and owning cars as the result of development on the island, --Bernama

▼25/10/15-54MST