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Mahathir-hotels

MORE HOTEL ROOMS FOR LANGKAWI, SAYS PM

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LANGKAWI, Jan 31 (Bernama) ⁹³ -- Another hotel may be built here to overcome shortage of hotel rooms during the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima) '93 exhibition here later this year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today although the number of hotel rooms here have increased since Lima '91, most of them have already been booked in advance by foreign tourists.

Speaking at a press conference at the end of his one-day visit here, he said one 230-room hotel here could only offer 83 rooms during the period of Lima '93 as all the rest have been booked in advance.

He also said that the organisers of Lima '93 were working together with an exhibition services company from Europe.

Asked regarding land-owners here who had not developed their land despite being given approval, Dr Mahathir said the government could not hand over the land to other developers. -- more

▼31/01/20-44MST

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He said most of the land-owners lacked capital but many were also trying to find partners for their projects.

"If a project is left undeveloped for a long-time, we have to cancel it," he said.

The Prime Minister said he was satisfied with the overall development of this island resort and praised the initiative of a local tourist operator who has opened up a crocodile farm at Datai here.

The farm has about 1,000 crocodiles aged between six months and 23 years on display and also for breeding purposes.

Dr Mahathir said he was happy to note that hotels here had improved their services and facilities and their room rates were also more reasonable. -- more

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He reminded traders here not to be too profit-minded and not to overcharge as this would drive away frequent visitors.

He also suggested that operators of old chalets here team up with those who had capital to refurbish their chalets and prevent sea pollution.

"If they don't keep the sea and beaches clean, in the end they will lose customers," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the proposed ferry service to be operated by the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) from here would solve the island's ferry problems for the time being, but they would re-surface if the number of tourists here continued to increase.

He said everytime he visited the island, there were always complaints of lack of electricity power and water supply due to the ever increasing number of tourists. -- more

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"It's a problem of success," he added.

During his visit here, the Prime Minister toured several hotel project sites, the site of the district police contingent headquarters, a government officers' housing project site and the crocodile farm.

He was accompanied on the visits by state executive councillor and state assemblyman for Langkawi Datuk Abu Bakar Taib, District Officer Ku Nahar Ku Ibrahim and Lada general manager Haji Halil Abdul Mutalib. --
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