

# Dr Mahathir confident Lima '93 will succeed

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LANGKAWI, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that the forthcoming Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima '93) exhibition will be bigger than Lima '91.

This is in view of the tremendous response to this year's exhibition.

Dr Mahathir said so far 5,900 square metres of exhibition space had been booked by both local and foreign participants compared to only 3,100 square metres in 1991.

"Up to today, 290 compa-

nies have confirmed their participation," he told newsmen at De Lima Resort today.

Lima '93 will be held from Dec 7 to 12 this year.

Dr Mahathir arrived yesterday to inspect preparations for Lima '93. Among the projects inspected by the Prime Minister were the Langkawi International Airport's parking apron and development of the Lima exhibition hall at Padang Matsirat, the site of Berjaya Leisure Berhad's RM60 million Berjaya Premier Beach Resort at Burau Bay and the site of the proposed tea house at Gunung Raya.

The Prime Minister was satisfied with the progress

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of the projects.

Asked whether there were sufficient accommodation facilities for Lima '93, Dr Mahathir said: "We will have enough rooms, unlike in Lima '91".

"So far we have 4,798 rooms on the island, we will not be facing the problem this year," he added.

Asked whether the Langkawi district office's action to withdraw the permits for sand quarrying in areas surrounding Langkawi airport had hampered development on the island, Dr Mahathir said: "It has not affected the progress".

"They mined sand near the airport and this is dangerous. The Government

has to stop the extraction of sand from the area.

"They can find other areas to get sand from," he added.

Dr Mahathir said areas where sand had been extracted must be rehabilitated with laterite.

He said the Government's decision did not affect development of the island except that the price of sand would increase a little.

In February this year, 17 sand-quarrying permits were revoked after the authorities found that the activities could threaten the airport's foundation.

Asked to comment on a report that Pemadam would

to amend section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1984 to include a 20-year jail sentence for dadah traffickers who escaped the gallows on technical grounds, Dr Mahathir said: "We will study the proposal when we receive it".

"We might have not realise the loopholes when we made the laws," he added.

Pemadam deputy president Idris Ibrahim said yesterday the organisation would propose the amendment to the Government.

He said the police had voiced their disappointment that some traffickers were let off scotfree on technical grounds despite being caught a number of times.