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Mahathir - Boat

MALAYSIA SET TO BECOME THE "CARIBBEAN OF THE EAST", MAHATHIR

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SHAH ALAM, June 30 (Bernama) Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) said Malaysia with its miles and miles of beautiful shoreline and many islands of breathtaking beauty, is set to become "Caribbean Of the East".

He said Malaysian waters were suitable for watersports and the country should have more sea-front development.

"Basic infrastructures for berthing and mooring are essential to create and support an enthusiastic boating community and the leisure boating industry in Malaysia," he said in a message to the souvenir programme of the Third Malaysia International Boat Show here.

Dr Mahathir said the Government's abolition of import duty on leisure boats had been well received and had spurred the leisure boating industry to record new heights.

"To ensure this continuous growth, boat manufacturers and dealers must introduce and promote boating as an affordable past time for the people," he said. -- more

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Mahathir - Boat/2 (last) Shah Alam

The Prime Minister hoped the industry would take the opportunity to make the Third Malaysia International Boat Show as the platform to further its endeavours and achievements.

He had no doubt that the exhibition, being held at Taman Tasik here from today to July 4, would contribute towards the growth of the leisure boating industry in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib, in his message wanted the industry to dismiss the people's pre-conceived idea that boating was only for the rich.

He said it would be most rewarding to the industry if the business people recognised the growing interest in boating activities among Malaysians and contributed to further the growth by offering an even wider variety of products and services.

The show will be, officially opened by Muhammad tomorrow.

About 60 companies from various countries including New Zealand and United States are participating in the show.

Some 90 boats of various sizes and watersports equipment like jet-ski are on display. -- Bernama

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