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Mahathir-tourists

HOTELS SHOULD INTENSIFY PROMOTION AMONG LOCAL TOURISTS, SAYS PM

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KUCHING, Aug 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad said today hotel operators should intensify efforts to promote their hotels among local tourists and not depend on foreign tourists.

He said that at a time when several foreign countries were experiencing economic slowdown, they should focus their attention on domestic tourism.

"That is why we are building more three star hotels providing five star service in the country," he said when opening the Santubong Kuching Resort near the Damai beach, about 33km from here.

The Prime Minister said that in this way the people would be encouraged to travel in the country to enjoy its beauty than to travel overseas.

He said that to attract tourists, especially from Western countries, hotels should provide excellent service in line with the customs of the East. -- more

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"Foreign tourists place importance on service at hotels where they are staying and hotel operators should be sensitive to their needs and strive to maintain quality," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the government had spent large sums of money to promote the country among foreign tourists.

He said that the country spent RM100 million last year and another RM100 million this year in preparation for Visit Malaysia Year next year.

Hotel operators should regard hotels as a partner who played a role in attracting tourists to the country, he added. -- Bernama

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