

CNS4227

U GE 10-10 00137 EA868

aae tbe

Mahathir-Lima

LANGKAWI CAN ACCOMMODATE LIMA VISITORS

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LANGKAWI, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he was convinced Langkawi can accommodate all visitors to the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima) '93 exhibition scheduled for Dec 7 to 12.

"We will have adequate number of rooms in Langkawi," he told reporters after a two-day visit to the island to look at preparations for Lima '93.

Dr Mahathir was satisfied with progress of work on projects, including several hotels.

The inaugural Lima exhibition in 1991 saw a shortage of accommodation for visitors.

Dr Mahathir said that should there be a shortage of rooms, cruise ships might be used to meet the need. -- more

KHY MGN

▼10/10/18-04MST

CNS4232

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Mahathir-Lima 2 Langkawi

He was also convinced that ferry transport to Langkawi would be adequate because the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) was operating two ferries, each capable of carrying 250 passengers.

Lada's third ferry was expected to be delivered early next month and would go into operation before Lima '93, he said.

On air transport, he said, Mofaz Air was providing service between Alor Setar and Langkawi in addition to other airlines operating services from various destinations.

Dr Mahathir also said that Langkawi would have a unique restaurant, set in the midst of mangrove forest in Kisap.

He said the restaurant could be the first of its kind in the world. Patrons would have to walk 500 metres into the mangrove forest to get to it, he said. -- more

KHY MGN

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CNS4237

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Mahathir-Lima 3 Langkawi

Dr Mahathir said the development of hotels in Langkawi would not impair the environment because the developers had been directed not to fell trees indiscriminately.

He also said it was left to the entrepreneurs to establish tourism projects in the other islands of the Langkawi chain, adding that eight chalets and marinas were being built in Pulau Rebak.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here yesterday evening, visited a hotel project in Teluk Datai, the floating hotel in the mangrove forest in Kisap, a shopping complex, Jetty Point and the maritime exhibition site at Kuah jetty.

Yesterday, he visited the Lima exhibition centre at the airport and two hotel projects.

During his tour today, the prime minister was accompanied by the chairman of the State Agriculture Committee Datuk Abu Bakar Taib, who is also the assemblyman for Langkawi, State Tourism Committee chairman Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain, Lada general manager Haji Halil Abdul Mutalib, Langkawi District Officer Ku Nahar Ku Ibrahim and chairman of Le Proton LIMA Sdn Bhd (organiser of Lima), Datuk Radzi Manan. -- more

KHY MGN

▼10/10/18-26MST

CNS4238

U GE 10-10 00152 EA871

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Mahathir-Lima 4 (last) Langkawi

Meanwhile, Radzi said it was anticipated that Lima '93 would be bigger and more interesting than Lima '91. So far, 2,000 exhibitors had registered to take part, he said.

He also said that guests would be accorded a grand welcome, complete with garlands, and that the organiser had booked 3,000 of the 5,000 rooms of international standard on the island for the participants and guests.

He advised those who had difficulty getting accommodation in Langkawi to stay in Kuala Lumpur or Pulau Pinang and fly in and out of Langkawi because airlines would be putting on additional flights to the island.

A spokesman for Jetty Point said the shopping complex was 80 per cent complete and was expected to be opened to the public before the start of Lima '93. --- Bernama

KHY MGN

▼10/10/18-33MST