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Mahathir-East

EAST COAST DEVELOPMENT WOULD INTENSIFY, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KEMAMAN, Oct. 12⁹³ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that development in the east coast states would intensify as it had its own attractions, particularly in the area of tourism.

The east coast possessed beautiful, clean and attractive beaches which stretched 900km from north to south.

Because of this natural asset, there were bright prospects in developing a very profitable tourism industry in the states, he added.

It was, therefore, necessary to obtain the expertise to undertake proper development, he said at the groundbreaking ceremony for the development of the Kijal Tourist Town project, near here.

The project, on a 315.9-hectare beach front site, would include 230 villas, a 400-room hotel and 40 chalets. It was expected to be completed in five to 10 years. -- more

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The project would be carried out in joint venture between the Terengganu State Government, and the private sector.

Dr Mahathir said in the past development was confined to the west coast states as it was easier to consolidate areas which had the infrastructure.

But now that development in the west coast states was becoming costly and there was also a shortage of workers, interest was shifting towards the east coast states, he added.

He said, however, the type of development undertaken should be commensurate with the assets. It was no use developing valuable assets which gave poor returns, he added.

For example, if the beautiful beaches in the east coast were developed for budget tourists only, a valuable asset would have been used to attract poor returns, he added.

He said the assets should be developed into resorts and five star hotels to attract high class tourists to benefit the state and the people.

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