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Mahathir-exhibition

PM PROPOSES EXHIBITION ON AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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LANGKAWI, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today suggested that an exhibition on the airport construction industry be held in Langkawi.

He said an exhibition on airport equipment, facilities and design would attract many parties in view that Malaysia and several other countries in the region would be building new airports.

Such an exhibition could be held at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre at the airport here where the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace 1993 (Lima '93) exhibition was being held, he said when opening the centre, here.

Dr Mahathir said the government would support such an exhibition.

He said Langkawi was suitable for holding exhibitions, especially those relating to the aviation and shipping industries, which could attract many people. -- more

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Mahathir-exhibition 2 Langkawi

"The East Asian and Southeast Asian regions are experiencing rapid economic growth and the people's interest in the aerospace industry is growing because more people are interested in flying and owning ships and luxury boats. As such, an exhibition of such nature will attract many people," he said.

On the exhibition centre, he said it was built after the phenomenal success of Lima '91.

"At first we had proposed to hold Lima '91 as an exhibition for small and home-built aircraft but it attracted the participation the Russians and other quarters," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Lima exhibition had become an established air and maritime show and more space and better facilities were needed in view of the numerous companies participating in Lima '93 which would be better than Lima '91.

The prime minister praised Woodhouse Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Ting Pek Khing for building the centre complete with various facilities and a big exhibition hall and suites for VIPs in a record seven months. -- more

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Mahathir-exhibition 3 Langkawi

He said that for Lima '91, Ting had also succeeded in providing 600 rooms for first-class accommodation in four months, half of which were built in 52 days.

"The buildings are still standing and I believe will continue to stand firm, he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that the people of Langkawi should be thankful because the island had attained rapid development that they had never dreamed of.

"Pulau Langkawi is a remote island cursed by Mahsuri for seven generations. Thank heavens we are free of the curse," he said.

He said the "eighth" generation in Langkawi was now enjoying the fruits of development in Langkawi.

"We are thankful for the bounty in Langkawi. Even the nasi lemak seller has become rich. There are now brick houses. The eighth generation has enjoyed the bounty and hence, Langkawi residents should be thankful," he said. -- more

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Mahathir-exhibition 4 (last) Langkawi

He said the centre would be used not only for aerospace and maritime shows but also for exhibitions on other industries to attract more tourists and businessmen.

He advised the locals to preserve the island's natural beauty or the tourists would stop coming to Langkawi and the island would revert to the poverty of centuries ago.

At the function, Ting, who is also Ekran Berhad executive chairman, presented a cheque for RM500,000 to Dr Mahathir as contribution to the Amanah Sabam Anak Langkawi (Asal).

The prime minister also launched a pictorial book entitled "Langkawi: Legend in the Paradise 2" by C.T. Fong which depicts the attractions of the legendary island.

Present were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Raja Datuk Ariffin Raja Sulaiman, State Tourism and Entrepreneur Committee chairman Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain and State Agriculture Committee chairman Datuk Abu Bakar Taib. -- Bernama

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