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Mahathir-hotel

PM REMINDS HOTELS NOT TO RAISE RATES

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KANGAR, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister ⁹⁴ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad said today hotels in the country should not raise their room rates unless necessary so that Malaysia could continue to be a tourist destination.

He said the hotels must maintain affordable rates so that the number of tourists would increase and the country's revenue grow.

Speaking when launching the Pens Travelodge Kangar, here, he said international-class hotels should also keep their rates within the means of local tourists because the hotel trade now no longer depended solely on foreigners.

He said that during the colonial times, the big hotels had only foreign visitors and expatriates as guests but when their number dwindled, it was difficult for international hotels to be built in Malaysia.

The prime minister also called on the people and businessmen to cooperate to control inflation, saying that a rise in the inflation rate would only send the prices of goods and services spiralling and the high wages of the people would be meaningless. -- more

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Mahathir-hotel 2 (last) Kangar

On the Pens Travelodge Kangar, he believed that with the international-class hotel, visitors would come to the town.

He said that in the past, visitors with business in Kangar would pass the night in Alor Setar because of the lack of comfortable lodgings here but now he was confident that they would not leave Kangar.

The 145-room hotel built at a cost of RM28 million belongs to a subsidiary of the Perlis State Economic Development Corporation and is run by the Southern Pacific Hotel Corporation (SPHC) group which also manages the Park Royal hotels in Kuala Lumpur and Pulau Pinang and several other hotels in the region.

SPHC Area General Manager Malaysia David Travers said the hotel, opened last Oct 30, was the first international-class hotel in Perlis and the first for the Travelodge hotel group in Malaysia.

He said five other Travelodge hotels were currently under construction, including one in Kuala Lumpur which was scheduled for opening end of this year.

At the function, Puan Louise Bulley, wife of Pens Travelodge Kangar general manager, Encik Jolyon Bulley, presented RM1,000 to the Badminton Association Malaysia (BAM). The contribution was received by BAM patron Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali.

The prime minister and his wife returned to Kuala Lumpur in the afternoon. -- Bernama

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