

RM1b holiday resort coming up in Sabah

KOTA KINABALU, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched a RM1 billion project to develop the Karambunai peninsula in northern Sabah into a world-class holiday resort.

The Prime Minister also toured the 1,552-ha area fronting the South China Sea. He later performed the ground-breaking ceremony by operating an excavator to scoop up the earth at the site.

The project will span 600 ha while the remaining areas will be preserved as a natural conservation park.

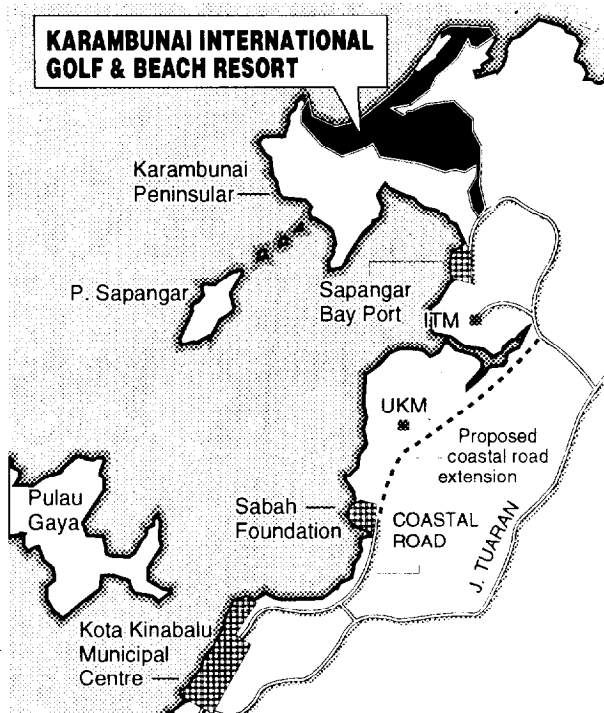
The first phase of the mega project, targeted for completion in late 1996 will include an international-class hotel, a 500-room apartment hotel and the first of two 18-hole golf courses.

On completion, the Karambunai resort will boast of 20 hotels and two giant Borneo theme parks, thus becoming the tourism gateway for Sabah.

Located on the Karambunai peninsula, about 35 km from Kota Kinabalu, the integrated resort is designed by world renowned planner, Helber, Hastert and Fee of Hawaii.

It will have a harbour village complex encompassing a ferry terminal, marina support functions and holiday residential units, a Borneo cultural centre and a flora and fauna park.

Executive chairman of Karambunai Resorts Sdn Bhd, Datuk Dr Chen Lip Keong briefed Dr Mahathir,



Chief Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai, Deputy Chief Ministers Datuk Salleh Said and Datuk Yong Teck Lee and State Ministers on the project.

Dr Chen said the project would have a strong impact on Sabah's economy. It would provide direct employment to 15,000, while spinning off a host of support services which would boost the transport, arts and craft and retailing sectors.

Dr Mahathir told a Press conference that projects such as the Karam-

bunai Resort could bring much needed development to Sabah which had big potential for tourism-related projects.

"Sabah has many scenic areas but there is a lack of hotels and recreational facilities to support the tourists."

"We will invite investors including those from Peninsular Malaysia to invest in these and other projects to speed up the pace of development in the State and thus benefit the people," he said.