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Mahathir-development

MAHATHIR SATISFIED WITH DEVELOPMENT IN LANGKAWI

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LANGKAWI, May 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today development projects in Langkawi had brought positive results, among them an evident increase in tourists visiting the island.

The number of tourists had increased to about one million compared with 20,000 to 30,000 at one time, he added.

He hoped all government agencies would co-operate in the development process so that the trend could continue unhindered.

Besides ensuring formalities were adhered to in the development process, the relevant agencies should correct what was improper so that projects could be completed on schedule, he said.

Launching the Port Langkasuka development project at Kuala Muda here, Dr Mahathir said the government had spent RM900 million for infrastructure facilities which had benefitted the people of Langkawi. -- more

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He added, however, that development in Langkawi was not meant for the people of the island only but also all Malaysians.

The RM1 billion Port Langkasuka project, expected to take five years to complete, would include construction of 6,000 resort houses on a 1,000-hectare site, part of which would be reclaimed coastal land.

Dr Mahathir said the muddy coastal area was one of several factors which influenced the siting of the project there.

The project was inspired by places like Kampung Air in Sabah, where the houses were built over water and a resort on reclaimed land in southern France which had become a tourist attraction.

The muddy Kuala Muda area was suitable for reclamation without destroying the environment and ideal for development of a resort because of its proximity to the Padang Mat Sirat international airport, he said. --

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