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Tourists

M'SIANS MAKE UP HALF OF THE VISITORS TO LANGKAWI

KUALA KANGSAR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- Half the 1.6 million visitors to Pulau Langkawi last year were Malaysians, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today.

This is in line with the steps taken to promote domestic tourism, he said, adding that most occupants of Tourism Malaysia's Seri Malaysia hotels are local tourists.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, at last week's Cabinet meeting, had asked the ministry to step up domestic tourism.

Sabbaruddin said tourism generated considerable revenue to Malaysia with some 7.5 million foreign tourists spending RM9.9 billion in the country last year.

In comparison, two million foreign tourists arrived in 1987 and they spent only RM800,000 to RM900,000, he said when opening a working camp of the Kuala Kangsar parliamentary constituency's Village Development and Security Committee in Manong here.

Sabbaruddin said the village committees should step up their efforts to set up tourism centres in their respective areas.

The centres should have basic amenities such as toilets, and sign boards, he said, adding that tourists arriving there could be charged and the money used to upkeep the centres. -- BERNAMA

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