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MAHATHIR LAUNCHES LANGKAWI HELICOPTER SERVICES

LANGKAWI, Feb 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today officially launched a Langkawi-based helicopter service by performing the "menepung tawar" ceremony on the company's helicopter at the Langkawi International Airport.

The brief ceremony was held on the airport tarmac shortly before Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, left for Bangkok to attend the two-day inaugural summit of Asian and European heads of government beginning tomorrow.

The helicopter, the French-made single-engined Ecureuil A350BA, belongs to Langkawi Helicopter Services Sdn.Bhd. (LHS) which plans to service the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) area.

LHS chief executive Mohamad Abdullaha said in a press release that it would give priority to destinations in Kedah, Perlis and Pulau Pinang with the hope of playing a major role in the tourism industry, especially in Langkawi.

The only helicopter company offering such services in the northern region, LHS currently operates its services on a chartered basis.

Mohamad said the company would be offering tourism and emergency medical evacuation services besides search and rescue, VIP and corporate services, aerial photography and filming. -- BERNAMA

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