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MAHATHIR OPENS RM87-MILLION SHERATON LABUAN HOTEL

LABUAN, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today officially opened the Sheraton Labuan Hotel, the only five-star international hotel in Malaysia's International Offshore Financial Centre (IOFC).

In his brief speech, Dr Mahathir called on the hotel management to provide quality service and to ensure hotel guest enjoy a comfortable stay.

"The quality of service is important to attract financial players into Labuan," he said.

The RM87-million hotel, owned by the Faber Group Bhd, is managed by Boston-based worldwide hospitality network ITT Sheraton Corporation.

Sheraton Labuan Hotel, the fourth Sheraton property in Malaysia, had its soft opening in late April this year.

Meanwhile, its Sales Accounts Manager Kuhen Navaratnam told Bernama the hotel enjoyed an occupancy rate of above 70 percent. "It is way, way above our projection of only 30 percent," he said.

Kuhen said the Labuan IOFC was certain to attract more regional players, especially those from financial institutions.

Last year, the island recorded only 180,000 arrivals by air on Malaysia Airlines. Up till July this year, the number of arrivals had reached about 150,000.

Sheraton Labuan said in its press release that it was poised to lead the way in meeting expectations of business travellers by providing services and facilities tailored to meet their needs.

The hotel is five kilometres from Labuan International Airport and directly opposite the RM360-million Financial Centre, also opened by the prime minister today. -- BERNAMA

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