

07 APR 1996

MORE SERI MALAYSIA HOTELS UNDER SEVENTH MALAYSIA PLAN

ALOR SETAR, April 7 (Bernama) -- The Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism plans to build more Seri Malaysia Hotels in several states under the Seventh Malaysia Plan.

Its secretary-general, Datuk Ismail Adam, said that following encouraging response to its first chain, more such hotels in the other states like Sabah, Sarawak, Melaka, Perlis and the Federal Territory would be built.

So far, 15 such hotels costing RM100 million have been built in Alor Setar, Sungai Petani, Kuala Terengganu, Kuantan, Port Dickson, Seremban, Bayan Baru, Ipoh, Johor Baharu, Maran, Temerloh, Taiping, Rompin, Bagan Lalang and Mersing.

The ministry had applied for allocation for the construction of the hotels to commence after the state governments had approved the sites, he told reporters after closing the third franchise meeting of Seri Malaysia Hotel managers here last night.

Ismail, who is also the chairman of the Seri Malaysia hotel chain, said the objective of building the hotels was not to compete with the other hotels but to provide business opportunities to local entrepreneurs in the hotel industry.

The existing 15 Seri Malaysia Hotels provide 1,450 rooms at a rate of between RM90 and RM120 per room.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would open the Ipoh Seri Malaysia Hotel on May 20. -- Bernama

RO/MFJ ARA RM