

30 JUN 1996

Mahathir-road

POOR CONDITION OF ROADS IN LANGKAWI ONLY TEMPORARY

LANGKAWI, June 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the poor condition of roads in several areas on this duty-free resort island cannot be avoided but it will not be a permanent feature.

He said the damaged roads were due to the many big projects that were being carried out on the island.

"We are building a sewerage system here which involves digging of roads and there is also the expansion work on the runway of the Langkawi International Airport," he said.

"This project calls for land reclamation and in the process, we carry earth using the roads like Jalan Pantai Cenang and until these projects are completed, the roads will be damaged a little," he told a news conference here.

He pledged that when all the projects were completed, scheduled for next year, the roads in Langkawi would return to its original condition.

"We are certain that the road condition will be better at least when all the earth ferrying work for the land reclamation project is completed," he said.

Dr Mahathir was responding to the complaints by several hotel and chalet operators especially along the Pantai Cenang between Pantai Tengah and Kuala Muda who were not happy with the very poor road condition.

The stretch of road in the area would be dusty on hot days and muddy on rainy days. There are at least 15 chalets and hotels along the road including the Pelangi Beach Resort and Langkasuka Resort.

At the same news conference, Dr Mahathir also said he had no plans yet for former Kedah Menteri Besar, Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff who resigned about two weeks ago.

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During the visit, the Prime Minister had the opportunity to see the development on the construction of the jetty for leisure cruisers at Tanjung Malai near Pantai Tengah costing about RM300 million.

The project involves the construction of a holiday resort with 1,200 rooms with the first phase expected to be ready before the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) exhibition next year.

Dr Mahathir also visited the garden village at Bayan which portrays the Mini Malaysia concept. Thirteen traditional Malay houses are built in the village which also provides accommodation for visitors.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir who was accompanied by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid also spent some time visiting the Premier Gallery at Kilim which houses

presents and souvenirs received by Dr Mahathir since becoming Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali and Sanusi's wife, Datin Seri Inangda Mayang Keumala were also present during the visit. -- BERNAMA

ZAA AO