12 MAY 1997 Mahathir-Langkawi DR MAHATHIR INSPECTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN LANGKAWI

LANGKAWI, May 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad spent four hours inspecting the development projects on this resort island.

He arrived at the Padang Matsirat international airport here by special aircraft at 1.40pm after opening a factory at the Perwaja Steel Sdn Bhd Complex in Gurun.

He then visited the Aquabeat theme park in Kuala Muda before having lunch at a Korean restaurant there.

Accompanying him were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and Langkawi MP Datuk Abu Bakar Taib.

The prime minister later visited the Prime Gallery in Kilim, about 15km from Kuah, which houses the collection of souvenirs he received on his overseas trips.

While there, he inspected the works to beautify the gallery's ceiling which is being carried out by 22 sculptors from Uzbekistan.

He then inspected the construction of the jetty for luxury boats in Tanjung Malai which will be used as the maritime exhibition venue for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (Lima '97) in December.

Dr Mahathir also visited the airstrip extension project by Hyundai Engineering which is expected to be ready before Lima' 97.

He wrapped up his tour with an inspection of the expansion project of the Mahsuri International Exhibition Hall which will also be used for Lima'97.

Dr Mahathir left for Kuala Lumpur at about 6.15pm. -- BERNAMA NH JK