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Mahathir-Walkway

MAHATHIR LAUNCHES WORLD'S LONGEST CANOPY WALKWAY

JERANTUT, March 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the world's longest canopy walkway at the National Park here.

The 450-metre walkway was built by the Wildlife and National Parks Department as another tourist attraction at the National Park, one of the oldest rainforests in the world.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali. Also present were Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaacob and Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding.

The RM200,000 walkway was completed in 1994. It is 1.3km or a 30-minute walk from the Taman Negara Resort.

The walkway is hung up between 40 and 60 metres above the forest floor. There are nine vantage points between one tree to another.

The trail runs along a flat river terrace for about 500 metres, through patches of mature and secondary forest areas.

While passing through points, nature lovers would be able to see the beauty of the 130 million-year-old tropical rainforest which is rich with flora and fauna.

A spokesman of the Wildlife and National Parks Department said as a safety precaution, every inch of the walkway is checked every morning.

He said the ropes have a minimum snapping strength of five tonnes and the capacity of the steel cables is more than 10 tonnes.

"The trees are being protected with wooden spacers fitted between the bark and the cables and ropes...no nails have been driven into the trees," he said.

He said nature lovers need not worry as every measure has been taken to protect the trees and the safety of visitors. -- BERNAMA

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