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Mahathir-Tourists

TREAT TOURISTS WELL, SAYS PM

KUALA TERENGGANU, Jan 1 (Bernama) -- The locals should treat foreign tourists well if the country is to become a tourist destination of excellence, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

"Tourists' feelings must be looked after... how would we feel if the citizens treat us badly when we visit their country," he said when launching the Visit Terengganu Year 1997 programme at Stadium Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah, here.

He said tourist could be a big source of income for the country. Hence foreign tourists should be looked after so that they would want to return to Malaysia.

The colourful launch attended by about 10,000 people was the first such event in Terengganu. Present was Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad.

Dr Mahathir said the people must also be taught the potential of the tourism industry because without them the industry would not thrive.

He also wanted all resources of natural beauty in Malaysia to be exploited to attract tourists.

There was no point in the country having waterfalls, hotspots and lakes if they were not developed as tourist spots, he said.

Dr Mahathir, who ended his two-day private visit to Terengganu, returned to Kuala Lumpur after the launch. -- BERNAMA

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