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AWANA-PROJECT

AWANA RESORT WILL PROCEED WITH ITS RM100 MLN TOURISM PROJECT

LANGKAWI, June 30 (Bernama) -- Awana Hotels & Resorts Management Sdn Bhd will proceed with its RM100 million tourism-based mixed-development project here despite the country's economic downturn.

Executive vice-president Wong Choon Kee said the project, with a final completion date scheduled for 2000, is destined to be the company's diamond investment in Langkawi.

The project would take off in stages, Wong said after briefing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Mentri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid on the project's progress.

"We have confidence in this project because of the long-term lure of Langkawi as a tourist destination," he said.

Awana Hotels & Resorts is a member of the Genting Group of Companies and has a property atop Genting Highlands.

The Langkawi project included expanding the number of rooms of the company's resort from 175 currently to 300, constructing restaurant outlets, beach clubs (man-made beach), a coral reef habitat, aquariums and a dolphin pool.

Wong said the facilities will complement existing attractions like a bowling alley, two cineplexes and the Star Cruise Jetty Terminal which allows cruiseliners to berth.

Besides the cruiseliners, Awana also offers watersports and personal water crafts such as boats to ferry passengers aboard the sole water-taxi service on the island.

Wong said that the project is viable despite the low tourist arrivals and the present economic situation and that the group would try its best to "captivate the hearts of thousands of visitors." -- BERNAMA

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