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PM: More cross-border visits beneficial

Ravi Nambiar

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he believes more Singaporeans will continue to visit Johor, just as Malaysians will go over to the republic.

At the opening of the RM400 million Johor Baru Duty Free Zone Complex at the Eden Garden Hotel in Stulang Luat, Johor Baru, on Saturday night, Dr Mahathir said: "Now with the Southern Growth Triangle encompassing Johor, Malacca, Negri Sembilan and Pahang, Singaporeans in fact have more to see and enjoy in Malaysia.

"Such free flow of people across our borders is mutually beneficial. This is good for bilateral relations and serves to strengthen our economic and social ties."

He hoped Johor would not only benefit from the "Singapore factor" but it would also woo international tourists arriving in the republic, as well as visitors from the Indonesian islands of Batam and Bintan.

Guests at the function included Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and his wife, Cabinet Ministers and top business leaders.

Also on that day, the opening of the Sungai Johor Water Treatment Plant in Kota Tinggi by Dr Mahathir was carried out via the multimedia. The plant is said to be the country's most modern automated water treatment plant.

Equiventures Sdn Bhd, the Johor Baru water supply privatisation concessionaire, has invested over RM600 million to date on infrastructure and facilities for two water plants.

The other plant - Sungai Layang Plant - primarily supplies the Pasir Gudang industrial zone and Johor Baru.

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