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Mahathir-Labuan

TOURISM POTENTIAL OF LABUAN MUST BE FULLY DEVELOPED, SAYS PM

LABUAN, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the tourism potential of Labuan must be fully developed to ensure greater economic activities in the duty-free island.

He said that beautification programmes to include extensive landscaping should be implemented while sports and recreational facilities must be developed to attract vacationers.

Speaking at the meet-the-people session at the Labuan Municipal Council's multipurpose hall, he said that concerted efforts had to be made to ensure the cleanliness of the environment including the beaches on the island.

He said that Labuan had its own natural attractions but its tourism potential had to be fully developed to attract even more tourists.

Dr Mahathir called on the local authorities and the people of Labuan to strive to make this a reality for their own benefit.

He said that the government would provide some allocation for programmes to be undertaken on the island but the people including voluntary organisations must also play their part.

The prime minister said that the Labuan Development Authority (LDA) would be asked to submit monthly reports on such developments on the island.

Earlier, at a news conference Dr Mahathir said that Labuan should be self-sufficient and not be depended on the mainland.

"We must find ways to ensure that vegetables could be grown and fish supply obtained from the island itself. Vegetables could be grown using the hydroponics method or even grown on the island's fertile soil while fish could be bred in cages," he said.

Dr Mahathir earlier visited the project sites of the new RM138 million Labuan Airport terminal and the Labuan Federal Territory government offices complex.

Commenting on the progress of airport terminal project, Dr Mahathir said it would attract more airlines to operate direct flights to the island.

-- BERNAMA

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