

06/11/1998

Use video to promote country, urges Dr M

Sreerema Banoo

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday suggested the use of video to promote and project the country in a better light as well as to correct misconceptions.

Speaking at the official opening of the Palace of the Golden Horses in Kuala Lumpur, Dr Mahathir expressed confidence that while the country is presently going through a "bad patch", it will be able to overcome these problems and in time see a growth in tourism.

He hoped that "video can be used to project the country for example, to show that we had haze only last year not the whole of this year ... but if you look at the television sometimes especially the news it would seem as if we have disasters all the time".

"We know that times are not good now, we are not receiving as many tourists as we would like to see, but I am quite sure that over time we will be able to overcome the problems that we face and others will also overcome their problems so that tourism and travelling will become once again a kind of pastime that many people will indulge in," he said.

He noted that although hotel was opened when the country was already facing economic problems, it had still attracted many well known personalities.

Palace of the Golden Horses was opened in October last year and has since its opening been the venue for the Group of 15 Summit, the Second Association of South-East Asian Nations Informal Summit and more recently the International Steering Conference on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women.

The hotel, which the Prime Minister decribed as the "most luxurious stable in the world", has played host to royalty and other dignitaries.

Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew, founder and managing director of Country Heights Group of Companies in his speech earlier said the hotel is targeting the Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions market and its rooms and facilities are catered to that market segment.

The Prime Minister later signed a commemorative marble slab and unveiled two gold leafed horses to symbolise the launch.

He later witnessed a fireworks display.

(END)