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Mahathir-Book

DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHES GUIDEBOOK ON LABUAN

LABUAN, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched a guidebook on business and tourism in Labuan, a video compact disc on Labuan and a homepage on Labuan on the Internet, at a luncheon, here, today.

He also launched a pictorial on "Layang-Layang: Drop In The Ocean" by Nocolas Pilcher, Steve Oakley and Prof Dr Ghazali Ismail, deputy vice chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

Among those present at the luncheon were leaders of Umno and Barisan Nasional component parties, government officials, private sector representatives and leaders of non-governmental organisations.

Dr Ghazali said that the book was completed in two years and hoped that it would be used to promote the island as a tourist destination.

"I also hope that the book will instil awareness on the preservation of reefs and marine life in the country including Layang-Layang which has been in existence for 35 years," he said.

Earlier, Labuan administrative director Datuk Mohamed Mohamed Noor said that tourist arrivals in the duty free island had increase.

He said that during the first months of the year, 169,314 local tourists visited the island compared with 150,314 during the same eperiod last year.

During the same period, 34,269 foreign tourists visited the island, a 44 per cent increase over the 18,956 foreign tourists who visited the island last year.

Mohamed said that the Labuan Development Authority (LDA) would strive to imporve infrastructure on the island.

The guidebook is available in four languages and will be distributed worldwide.

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