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Mahathir-Tourists
MALAYSIA WILLING TO RELAX TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS ON TOURISTS


     LANGKAWI, July 25 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is willing to relax its travel
and visa requirements to accommodate the needs of foreign tourists, Prime
Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.
     "We are very keen to have people stay a longer time in Malaysia and for
that we prepared to relax on visa requirement", Dr Mahathir said before
witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Emkay Group
and Golden Life Resort Berhad on accommodation rental of 220 chalets in the
"Langkawi Lagoon", a new style of luxury-living project, here.
     The RM250 million project, which is destined to be part of the new
development growth for the resort island, will have 1,700 chalets and a
blend of condominium and chalet living catering to the needs of foreign
tourists.
     Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was anxious to promote tourism as it could
aid the country's economic recovery.
     He said the government would try to accommodate as much as possible the
needs of visitors including the Korean tourists as their country had
registered very rapid recovery after the economic turmoil of 1997 and 1998.
     Dr Mahathir said Korea would be the first country in East Asia to
recover as its recovery was very strong.
     Congratulating the Korean government for this achievement, Dr Mahathir
said: "For us, the prosperity of our neighbours is something that we always
welcome as their prosperity also helps our own prosperity".
     Dr Mahathir said that when Korea became prosperous it would enable its
citizens to visit Malaysia more often, especially for their first
honeymoon.
     The prime minister said that besides cementing friendship with
Malaysians, and enjoying Malaysian hospitality, Korean tourists could also
save money as the cost of living here was lower than in Korea.
     Dr Mahathir also said that the relationship between the two countries
had been very good, with lots of Koreans working here and contributing to
the development in Malaysia.
     -- BERNAMA