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Mahathir-tourism

CABLE CAR IN LANGKAWI IF NOT TOO COSTLY, SAYS MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, March 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahahir announced today two new plans to boost tourism on the island, a cable car for Gunung Matcincang and restoration of beaches at Kok.

Dr Mahathir said the cable car project is an attractive proposition, provided it is not too costly.

"I saw the Gunung Matcincang from helicopter...it's attractive, if we can do it provided it's not too costly," he told reporters after visiting development projects on the island, including an Oriental settlement at Teluk Burau, shopping centre of branded goods and crystal settlement at Pulau Rebak, here.

The erosion at Kok, if not tackled, could adversely affect another tourist asset belonging to the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), the summer place of Thai architecture.

The place built at a cost of RM1 million was used in the filming of the movie, "Anna and The King". The film producer, 20th Century Fox handed over the set to LADA after filming was completed in mid April last year.

Dr Mahathir said the tourism-related projects had succeeded in attracting more tourists to the island.

"I notice that the restaurant atop the kelong at Teluk Burau here seems popular among tourists especially from Europe to dine and unwind after being in the hot sun during the day," he said.

He was confident that Oriental settlement could attract more tourists.

He said he also visited the crystal settlement developed by LangkawiiCrystaal Sdn Bhd and the hard stand for servicing the yachts using the marina at Pulau Rebak.

LADA general manager Datuk Abdul Halil Mutalib, commenting on the cable car proposal, said it would link the peak of 708-metre Gunung Matcincang with the Oriental settlement at Teluk Burau.

He said LADA would submit the proposal to the government soon.

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