

22 MAY 2000

MATCINCHANG-POTENTIAL

MATCINCHANG PROPOSED CABLE CAR PROJECT HAS BIG POTENTIAL, SAYS
CONSULTANT

LANGKAWI, May 22 (Bernama) -- The proposed cable car project linking the peak of the 700m high Gunung Matcinchang with Oriental Village here as the ground station, has a larger potential than what was earlier conceived by the local authorities.

Wyss Planning Consultants, which was engaged to study the viability of the project said that it had uncovered several potentials in the project including becoming a major tourist attraction in the island.

The consultant team headed by Wyss Planning Consultants managing director Dr Peter A. Wyss, began survey works on the proposed project six weeks ago. They were engaged by Angkasa Jurutera Perunding Sdn Bhd and the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada), which has proposed the project.

At a press briefing here today, Dr Wyss said his team found an impressive list of complementary attractions along the Matchinchang range to support the proposal for a cable car system here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had spoken about the possibility of establishing a cable car project here during his visit here last March.

While there is no approval yet for the project, Dr Wyss said the potential cannot be easily discarded as the range which has been suggested to be named the Matchinchang Nature Park also has high educational value for geological studies and an even higher botany value with untouched wild orchids growing through every facet of the mountain.

He said if the project became a reality it would also attract a high number of tourists.

Dr Wyss said the cable car model would be a detachable gondola shape which can ferry six passengers per car.

On the survey currently being carried out by the company, Dr Wyss said the it was expected to be completed by October this year. Construction works will take about one year.

Gunung Matcinchang is made of rock fossils called sandstones, and is one of the oldest in the country, formed more than two million years ago. The mountain has a crater and two position peaks with a commanding view of the island and its surrounding 99 sister islands.

Dr Wyss also said the cable project would be environment-friendly as it would be built without any felling of trees or hill cutting. -- BERNAMA

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