

Dr M's house 'a tourist lure'

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ALOR STAR: Tour operators should include the birthplace of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in their travel itinerary for tourists, said Tourism Minister Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad.

The house in Lorong Kilang Ais would be an interesting attraction, showcasing the history of the country's fourth Prime Minister, he said.

Dr Mahathir was born in the 104-year-old wooden house in 1925.

He grew up there until he got married in 1956 and moved to his own house in Titi Gajah.

Dr Toyad added that stu-

dents could visit the place to learn more about Dr Mahathir and the role he played to bring the country to the international forefront.

Among the exhibits displayed in the house are items used by Dr Mahathir's family.

Several traditional-style buildings were built in the vicinity a few years ago to display other exhibits which also highlight Dr Mahathir's medical and political career.

"A total of 241,363 people, of whom 8,495 were foreigners, visited the place since 1992," Dr Toyad said after visiting the complex yesterday.

In Kuala Lumpur, Dr Toyad said the ministry had set up a new division to raise the standard of human resources in the tourism sector.

He said the division, called Development of Services and Human Resources in Tourism, was aimed at improving the quality of services.

He said the division would also look into overcoming the problem of shortage of tourist guides.

"We are still short of tourist guides. We also need specialised guides like jungle guides. We are looking into this," he added.