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Langkawi-Project

ALLOCATION APPROVED FOR CABLE CAR PROJECT IN LANGKAWI

LANGKAWI, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- The Federal government has approved a RM46 million allocation for a cable car project linking the top of the 708m Gunung Machincang with the Oriental Village shopping complex in Teluk Burau here.

Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) general manager Datuk Zainal Karib Abdul Rahim said the proposed project will be a joint effort between Dopple-Mayer, an Austrian cable car manufacturer, and a local firm.

"Alienation of the project site to the joint venture company will be effected soon and the project is scheduled to be completed in 60 weeks," he said here today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had broached the idea of a cable car service in Langkawi during a visit to the resort island back in March last year.

Following that, Lada engaged the services of Wyss Planning Consultants of Switzerland in May to undertake a study and found the project feasible. It proposed using the "detachable gondola-shaped" cable car with a six-passenger capacity each.

Zainal Karib also said tourist arrivals in Langkawi is projected to rise to 2.1 million this year from 1.8 million arrivals last year.

"Various tourism activities have been arranged for this year, including the declaration of Langkawi as a tourism city next month and the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace show from October 9 to 14," he said.

More than 200,000 foreign tourists visited Langkawi last year of whom 60,000 were from Thailand, 22,000 from Singapore, 17,358 from Australia, 13,000 from Taiwan, 11,000 from the United Kingdom and 10,800 from the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

Zainal Karib said Lada has also been allocated RM107.5 million this year for infrastructure development.

-- BERNAMA

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