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Mahathir-Langkawi

DEVELOPMENT IN LANGKAWI WILL PRESERVE NATURAL SURROUNDINGS

LANGKAWI, July 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is satisfied with the pace of development taking place in Langkawi and the considerable attention that has been accorded to environment conservation in the process of carrying out these projects.

"If we observe the development in Langkawi, the developers have paid a lot of attention to preserving the natural surroundings which remains the main tourist attraction," he told reporters here today at the end of his one-day visit to the island to monitor the progress of various developmental projects.

Dr Mahathir said a five-star hotel in Burau Bay was being built to add another 100 hotel rooms while every effort was made not to fell even one tree in the process of construction.

The hotel would implement the "Spa In The Forest" concept, a unique tourist attraction not available elsewhere, he said.

Dr Mahathir added that Langkawi can boast of many natural attractions like in Gua Tembus, which has a tunnel at the foot of a hill in Sungai Kilim which is passable during low-tide.

Tourists can also sail through the tunnel right up to Tanjung Rhu.

During his trip down Sungai Kilim, Dr Mahathir who was accompanied by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak, also inspected several tourist attractions which included a spot where eagles converged to feed on foodstuff thrown into Sungai Kilim.

Also accompanying Dr Mahathir on the trip was his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

"Langkawi has many different attractions but many complaint that there is nothing to see at night," he said.

However, the Prime Minister was disheartened with the developer of a construction and yatch maintenance company in Tanjung Lembung.

The joint venture project between Penang Shipbuilding and Construction Sdn Bhd and the Langkawi Development Authority is sprawled over 4.8 hectares and is the region's most modern yatch facility.

"I am sad that nothing has been done so far although there was so much excitement at the function when I graced the launching ceremony in April," he said.

Dr Mahathir spent five hours touring the various development projects here including the cable car service at the Oriental Village in Burau Bay.

He said work on the RM46 million project was progressing well and would be completed March next year.

Dr Mahathir also visited the work going on at the Morac International Go-Kart Circuit which included the expansion of the circuit from 990 meters to 1,230 meters.

A covered grandstand which can seat 600 spectators would also be built at the circuit.

-- BERNAMA

NH DVS