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Hulu Besut springs a hot favourite

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HOTSPRINGS have become a popular attraction not just for tourists, but also for those who believe the natural springs, which are rich in sulphur content, possess healing power.

It is also believed that hotsprings contain elements that slow down ageing, thus they have also been called the fountains of youth.

In Terengganu, the La Hotspring in Hulu Besut, is quite unusual. The hot water, which is almost at boiling temperature, emerges from fissures on boulders and flows into a river.

Located half-an-hour from Jertih town, thousands have visited La Hotspring for different reasons, many to find a cure for illnesses while enjoying the picturesque view near the area.

The hotspring was opened by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1994.

A local who identifies himself as Mie, said the hotspring had cured more than 20 people who suffered different degrees of paralysis.

"To get well, one has to frequently take a dip in the water before the healing takes effect. You may not believe me and dismiss this as a myth, but it is true," he said.

Mie said a man who was suffering from a heart ailment spent three weeks at the La Hotspring.

"He later went for a medical check-up and his doctor gave him a clean bill of health," he added.

The hotspring, Mie said, held its own mystery and one had to talk with the elders to learn more about the place.

The State Government had developed the area into a prime tourist spot and among the facilities are shelters, changing rooms and food stalls.

A pool is being constructed next to the the river near where the hot water from the spring will be channelled directly into the pool.

Mie also said La Hotsping is also famous for gemstones, mostly quartz of vibrant colours, found in the river and along its banks.

He said the stones cost from RM10 to RM500.

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