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Paya Indah

PAYA INDAH WETLANDS POISED TO BECOME ECO-TOURISM ATTRACTION

By: Farhanah Azmi

PUTRAJAYA, June 11 (Bernama) -- Ex-tin mining areas covering a total of 3,100 hectares here are being actively developed into an eco-tourism centre with several unique features.

Known as the Paya Indah Wetland Sanctuary it is being developed with minimum infrastructure facilities to preserve and safeguard the eco-system balance.

Its Communications and Public Relations Manageress Nor Hafidzah Mohamed said the area was being developed as a wildlife and bird sanctuary since tin mining came to end there in 1997.

The sanctuary would be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October, she told Bernama in an interview.

"Distinct from other water recreational centres, the Paya Indah Wetland Sanctuary stresses more on aspects of preserving and safeguarding the environment and the flora and fauna found in the six ex-tin mining areas and marshland as well as the Kuala Langat Permanent Forest Reserve.

"Preliminary works in the area involved conserving the environment. After active mining, much damage has been done to the ecological balance in the area," she said.

She said the water-logged area and the water margin have to be stabilised with plants and other water grass to facilitate fresh water fish breeding.

Other works involved planting trees for water catchment purposes and beautifying the landscape.

To date the Paya Indah Wetland Sanctuary has 210 species of birds, 35 species of mammals, 19 species of fish and more than 220 water plants and more than 5,000 trees.

To attract visitors to the sanctuary, various activities such as boating, canoing, horse riding, camping and forest trekking and so on had been provided.

Among the latest attractions at the sanctuary was the angling centre where anglers could try their skills at catching various species of fish such as arroapaima, patin, baung, lampam jawa, haruan and catfish.

Paya Indah Wetland Sanctuary yesterday played host to an angling competition organised by the Welfare and Sports Division, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department.

Competition Coordinator Himmat Singh said the Paya Indah Wetland Sanctuary was chosen because it was the latest angling centre and was close to the Prime Minister's Department.

"Apart from being close to the department, it can provide some education to children on inland fisheries as a side activity," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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