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PM's stature can help in getting Malacca and Georgetown on list

PENANG, Fri. - The international recognition commanded by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will place Malaysia in good stead in getting Georgetown and Malacca placed on the world heritage map.

In describing the Prime Minister as a "key figure" who was known globally, conservation architect Didier Repellin yesterday said the political stability and consistency of leadership enjoyed by Malaysia served as plus points in getting the two historic cities on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's famed World Heritage List.

"This is an important point as Unesco is currently faced with applications from many countries which see frequent changes in government," he said during a briefing on benefits of a serial listing for Georgetown and Malacca on the global list.

Despite being a State Party to the World Heritage Convention since 1988, no place in Malaysia had been placed on the list until last December when the Kinabalu Park and Mulu Caves were listed.

World Heritage properties are sites with exceptional natural or cultural values.

The international importance of these sites is recognised through their inclusion on the World Heritage List, established by the World Heritage Convention.

Repellin, a consultant to Singapore's Urban Renewal Authority and Singapore Tourism Board, is also a heritage conservation consultant in Cambodia and Vietnam.

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