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Mahathir-Langkawi

PRESERVE LANGKAWI'S ENVIRONMENT, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, April 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, satisfied with the level of development in Langkawi, today said focus should be given to the preservation of the environment in this island resort.

"I have not been to Langkawi for sometime now, many projects have been launched like the electric cable project, but the environment must be kept intact," he told reporters after visiting some of the development projects here.

Dr Mahathir's is on a one-day visit to Langkawi, his first for this year.

He asked developers of projects in Langkawi not to depend solely on soil and brick supply from Langkawi itself but to source them from elsewhere.

"If we continue to dig, the ground will be flattened and Langkawi will not be attractive anymore.

he said more trees should be planted along roads since earlier attempts to plant teak trees were not very encouraging.

Dr Mahathir suggested that trees which were almost close to the teak species and which can grow faster be planted for its timber and commercial value.

He said more landscaping should be done on Langkawi island besides improving and widening roads in accordance with Langkawi's city status.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here last night, spent four hours touring the various development projects making his first stop at the two-hectare snake farm which houses 200 species of local snakes.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Kedah Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain who later visited the Pantai Kok rehabilitation project and the construction of two man-made islands, costing RM29.6 million in Burau Bay.

He later performed a ground breaking ceremony for the electric cable car project which would link the 708 metre-high Machincang mountains to a base station in the integrated Oriental Village shopping complex in Burau Bay.

The RM60 million Oriental Village project is being built on a joint venture basis between an Austrian cable car manufacturer, Dopple-Maayer and a local company and is expected to be completed in 60 weeks.

Dr Mahathir later visited the Kuala Sungai Melaka beautification project costing RM28.9 million and a yacht re-conditioning centre in Tanjung Lembung.

-- BERNAMA

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