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Mahathir-Langkawi

PRESERVE NATURAL BEAUTY OF LANGKAWI, SAYS MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, March 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said all development projects in Langkawi should be undertaken without spoiling its natural beauty so as to promote the island as a tourism city.

The government was confident that Langkawi would emerge as a leading tourist destination in the region, the prime minister said in his message in the souvenir programme in conjunction with the declaration of Langkawi as a tourism city today.

The preservation of beautiful hills and beaches, the clean sea water and unique islands should be given attention because these are the main assets of Langkawi as a tourist attraction, he said.

"I am very proud of this upgrading and I extend my heartiest congratulations to the Langkawi Tourism City Municipal Council (MPL) on this.

"Langkawi has taken a step forward with the upgrading of the Langkawi District Council to municipal council status," he said.

The Sultan of Kedah officiated at the ceremony to declare Langkawi a tourism city. The island's tourism city status was gazetted on Dec 6 last year.

Dr Mahathir urged the people of Langkawi to help government agencies preserve the island's beauty.

In a similar message, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said the conferment of the new status symbolised the government's recognition of MPL's ability in rendering good services and bringing orderly development.

-- BERNAMA

NH YBY