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Visit-Langkawi

PROTECT LANGKAWI'S IDENTITY AND HERITAGE, SAYS ST LUCIA PREMIER

LANGKAWI, May 12 (Bernama) -- Visiting St Lucia Prime Minister Dr Kenny Davis Anthony said today emphasis should be given to protecting the identity and heritage of the people of Langkawi to attract more tourists in future.

"The people make the tourism industry come alive and this shows that personality is the most important factor as tourists will shy away when they feel that they are not welcome here", he told reporters at the end of his two-day visit to the resort island.

Earlier, Dr Anthony and his wife, Rose Marie, visited the Handicraft Centre in Teluk Yu and the Oriental Village, an integrated shopping complex, in Teluk Burau here.

He said the island authority should not make the same mistake as the Caribbean island nation, which he leads, by transforming its people.

"The most important thing is to prepare the people for tourism by educating and relating them with the industry in order to face the future challenges", he added.

Dr Anthony said the wide range of tourism products, blended with its colourful culture and tradition, made Langkawi an international tourist destination.

The prime minister and his seven-member delegation, including Planning, Environment and Housing Minister Dr Walter Francois, who arrived in Malaysia last Wednesday at the invitation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, later left for Kuala Lumpur to continue with their visit.

-- BERNAMA

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