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Kadir-Tioman

PLANS TO ENHANCE TIOMAN'S ATTRACTION IN PROGRESS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- Plans to further enhance Pulau Tioman's attraction as a tourist destination are in progress, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said today.

They included relocating squatters to proper places, cleaning up the beaches and rivers, providing proper incinerators as well as road construction, he said.

However Abdul Kadir said, the government would ensure the island would not be over-developed.

"I'm sure the state government and Tioman development authority have certain policies not to allow for over development... not to approve over development in certain zones," he told reporters before the launch of the Arabic Shopping and Tourism Directory Malaysia Edition 2002/2003, here.

He also said that Pulau Tioman would be developed differently from Pulau Langkawi.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad confirmed a news report which said Pulau Tioman would be made a duty-free island.

The move which will make Pulau Tioman as the third island with duty-free status after Pulau Langkawi and Labuan, was made to allow the island to compete with the Indonesian islands of Bintan and Batam in attracting tourists from Singapore.

About 200,000 visitors arrived on Pulau Tioman in 2000, compared with 58,000 in 1987.

Abdul Kadir said his ministry in collaboration with the Tioman Development Authority was identifying more development programmes for the island.

Even though Pulau Tioman's status had changed, it would remain under the Pahang Government, he added.

-- BERNAMA

NM AHH AAM