

05 APR 2002

Mahathir-Tourists

BE NICE TO TOURISTS, PM TELLS LANGKAWI RESIDENTS

LANGKAWI, April 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Langkawi residents to be nice to foreign tourists as the tourist dollar represents a major source of income for the duty-free island resort.

He said that an increase in tourist arrivals would further enhance the economy of the island resort and this would in turn boost the country's economy.

The prime minister said that tourists who were happy with their stay would come back again and again.

He said that the better standard of economy enjoyed by Langkawi residents now was due to the increasing number of tourists to the island.

"To residents of the island, even those not directly involved in the tourism industry, I ask that they be nice and pleasant to every single visitor," he said when opening the Skymall shopping centre at the Langkawi international airport here.

Dr Mahathir said that the tourism sector of the country's northern neighbour was thriving as the people in that country had extended a very high standard of service to tourists visiting their country.

Dr Mahathir cited discourteous and indisciplined taxi drivers and tourist boat operators as those who could affect the tourism industry and tarnish the image of the country.

He said that their unpleasant experiences could deter the tourists from coming back.

"In fact, they may even relate their experiences to their friends," he said, adding that damage would have been done.

The prime minister said that in the tourism sector, it was crucial that all the needs of the tourists were met.

The shopping centre is set up by Dr Group Holding Sdn Bhd at a cost of RM3 million.

Its managing director, Datuk Dahlan Rashid, said that the shopping centre at the airport terminal concept had been practised in many airports in developed countries.

It began operation two months ago with 30 operators selling local and imported goods including branded items.

-- BERNAMA

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