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Dr M confident cable car service will be added attraction

LANGKAWI, Thurs. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident the latest tourist attraction here, the RM45 million cable car service, linking the Oriental Village in Burau Bay to Gunung Machinchang, will be a major crowd-puller to the duty-free island resort.

The Prime Minister said the view from the top is very beautiful and so is the climate, which he described as a "lot cooler than at the foothill."

"The design (of the gondolas) is also very attractive and I am very confident the cable car service will woo more tourists to Langkawi.

"I am satisfied with the cable car service and its other facilities," he told reporters after taking a ride in the cable car to reach the peak of the 708m Gunung Machinchang.

Accompanying Dr Mahathir during the 15-minute breathtaking ride, above 4,167ha of virgin jungles of Machinchang and the waterfalls of the legendary Telaga Tujuh (Seven Wells) were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed, Langkawi Development Authority general manager Datuk Zainal Khalid Abdul Rahim and the cable car project consultant Dr Peter A. Wyss.

Asked if Langkawi could expect an influx of foreign tourists following the bombings in Bali recently, Dr Mahathir responded in jest: "Oh ... we count on others' misfortunes for our benefits? I don't know about that."

After the ride, the Prime Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the Langkawi Harbour Park project, also in Burau Bay.

Dr Mahathir also visited the Langkawi Lagoon Resort.