

07 JUL 2002

Mahathir-Langkawi

DR M SAYS LANGKAWI WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AFTER HIS RETIREMENT

LANGKAWI, July 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that Langkawi, a special place to him, will continue to develop even after he retires in "15 months and 23 days" time.

"I am confident that the 'curse of Mahsuri' will not return to Langkawi," the prime minister said at a ceremony to welcome him at the Langkawi International Airport in Padang Mat Sirat today.

Dr Mahathir was given a rousing welcome by Langkawi residents on his arrival from Bangkok after making a two-day visit to Thailand.

Among those who welcomed the prime minister and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Langkawi Member of Parliament Datuk Abu Bakar Taib who is also Agriculture Ministry Parliamentary Secretary, senior government officials, and Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders.

Dr Mahathir said if the people worked hard and cooperated, Langkawi would continue to develop.

He said he would continue to visit Langkawi even after he retired because the island was a special place to him.

"Even in retirement I will come to Langkawi. I will not forget Langkawi," said Dr Mahathir, who stated that he would step down in 15 months and 23 days' time.

The prime minister said he was both sad and happy to see the reception given him by Langkawi people.

He said he was happy to see Langkawi continuing to develop unlike the situation in 1956, when he was a medical officer here, when Langkawi was very backward.

He considers Langkawi a special place for rest and work.

"That is why when my blood pressure rises I come to Langkawi as it is an efficacious medicine for this disease," he said.

The prime minister also said he did not want any delay to the cable car project.

The project had been scheduled to be completed last month and a trial run was to be held this month.

After the welcoming ceremony at the airport, Dr Mahathir went to Teluk Burau to inspect the RM46 million cable car project.

The 2.2km long cable car line will link the Oriental Village Integrated Shopping Complex to the peak of the 708m high Gunung Machinchang.

Dr Mahathir also inspected the Harbour Park Langkawi project in Pantai Kok and attended a briefing given by the country's renowned sailor Datuk Azhar Mansor, who is a consultant for the project.

The project, based on the Mediterranean concept, encompasses the building of a marina, hotel and housing area.

The proposed marina in the Teluk Burau area can accommodate more than 100 sailing boats.

Teluk Burau will be developed into a growth centre.

--- BERNAMA

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