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Dr M takes time off to visit cable car, Harbour Park projects

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who arrived in Langkawi yesterday to attend the Global 2002-International Smart Partnership Dialogue, took some time from his busy schedule to visit two new projects, the cable car and Harbour Park Langkawi in Teluk Burau.

Immediately after arriving at the Langkawi International Airport at 9.15am, the Prime Minister went off to visit the RM45 million cable car project in Teluk Burau.

Accompanying him at the cable car project were five others, including Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and project consultant Dr Peter A. Wyss.

They took a ride on a gondola for 2.2km from Oriental Village to the peak of Gunung Machinchang.

Upon their arrival at the peak of the mountain, Dr Mahathir toured around the area and was briefed by Wyss on the progress of the project, which began in April last year.

The cable car service, which links Oriental Village in Teluk Burau to the 708-metre Gunung Machinchang, is said to be 95 per cent complete and is expected to be operational by the end of this month.

Thirty-five gondolas, with each seating six passengers, will be available when the project starts its operation.

Starting from the Oriental Village shopping and food complex, the cable car gondolas will whisk visitors up through two connecting towers. From there, the gondolas move to the peak of Gunung Machinchang where another two observation towers are available.

A jungle trekking path will link the various points of the cable car project.

The project was mooted by Dr Mahathir, while he was flying in a helicopter over the area in 1999. From the cable car project, Dr Mahathir also visited the Harbour Park Langkawi, a project that incorporates the development of a marina, hotel and residential areas.

Dr Mahathir was briefed on the project by the project consultant, Datuk Azhar Mansor.