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Mahathir-Cable Car

DR M HOPEFUL TOURISTS WILL USE CABLE CAR SERVICE

LANGKAWI, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident tourists coming to this resort island will use the cable car service which links the 708-metre-high Gunung Machinchang at Burau Bay with the Integrated Shopping Complex at Oriental Village.

"I am satisfied with its performance and I hope many tourists will use the service," he told reporters after visiting several development projects, including the RM46-million cable car project, here.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir, who arrived with Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain at the Langkawi International Airport, was greeted by Langkawi Member of Parliament Datuk Abu Bakar Taib and other dignitaries.

Dr Mahathir said the gondola-shaped cable car, which could carry six people at a time, was attractive.

"The panoramic view from atop Gunung Machinchang is very beautiful with the cooler weather from the ground," he said.

The project, a joint venture between Dopple-Mayer of Austria and a local company, is expected to be operational next month.

Tourists using the service will have an opportunity to enjoy the panoramic view of the entire Langkawi Island and view Tarutao Island and Satun beach in southern Thailand.

According to Abdul Manaf Majid, Langkawi Development Authority's Technical Manager, Dr Mahathir also gave the green light to build a RM2-million suspension bridge spanning over a 100m ravine between the two-peak Gunung Machinchang with the middle station of the cable car.

During the four-hour visit, Dr Mahathir also conducted an aerial view of the construction of the Langkawi Harbour Park at Pantai Kok being built under the Mediterranean concept.

He was briefed on the progress of the project by project consultant Datuk Azhar Mansor, who is also Malaysia's national mariner.

Azhar said the two-phase RM40-million project was progressing smoothly.

The park will have a marina that can house 100 yachts at a time.

Various accommodation facilities, including three-star hotels and apartments, would be built at the 12-hectare park.

Asked whether the recent bombings in Bali, Indonesia might attract more tourists to Langkawi, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know."

-- BERNAMA

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