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Langkawi cable car service ready soon

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LANGKAWI, Sun. - The RM45-million cable car system to take visitors up the second highest peak in Langkawi is expected to be operational by November.

The project, which is a brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will enable visitors to get a bird's eye view of the island from the top of the 708m-high Machinchang Mountain.

Besides getting a 360-degree view of the island and surrounding Datai Bay and Andaman Sea, visitors can also see the Thai island of Tarutao and Satun coastline from the mountain top.

The 15-minute journey up the mountain in six-seater gondolas will also enable visitors to see the top of forests that cover the mountain and the nearby Telaga Tujuh (Seven Wells) waterfalls.

Project managing director Dr Peter A. Wyss said trial runs of the system had been completed while construction of the viewing towers at the mountain top was in the final stages.

"We expect this to be finished in the coming weeks and the cable cars will be ready for public use by November," he said here.

Earlier, some 200 local and Singaporean travel agents along with reporters were taken on a trip up the mountain in the cable cars.

This was the first time visitors were allowed to ride in the cable cars since work on the project began early last year.

Wyss said 35 gondolas would be used to ferry passengers up and down the mountain and an adult would be charged RM15 while a child RM10 to take the 2.2km ride.

He said the system used state-of-the-art technology with emphasis on safety features, which included four back-up safety systems to ensure the gondolas could be brought back to the base station at any time.

"Visitors are assured of a safe, fun and unforgettable ride in the cable cars," he added.