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Marina, longer airstrip planned for Pangkor

IPOH, Wed. - The Perak Government proposes to extend the existing airstrip on Pulau Pangkor by 500 metres and develop a marina to encourage tourism on the island, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said today.

A longer airstrip will allow access to bigger planes, while a marina will accommodate yachts.

Tajol Rosli said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had in principle agreed to the work.

Dr Mahathir was in Pangkor over the weekend to close the Asian Global Leadership Forum.

The environmental impact assessment was awaited but he expected no major obstacles to the project's implementation.

Tourists would find it more convenient to fly straight to the island.

"Those who land in Ipoh first will need another two hours to reach Pangkor by road," he told reporters after witnessing the launch of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society's sixth biennial camp by Raja Muda of Perak Raja Nazrin Shah at Gunung Lang Recreational Park.

Tajol Rosli said Dr Mahathir also acknowledged that there were many yachts around Pangkor which would benefit from a marina.

"We also want cruise liners such as Star Cruises to stop at Pangkor, but the existing jetty is too small."

The five-day camp has about 500 participants, including 31 foreigners.