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PULAU TIOMAN TO GET DUTY-FREE STATUS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today confirmed that Pulau Tioman will be accorded duty-free status to attract more tourists.

"Yes, Pulau Tioman will be a duty-free island," Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, told reporters at a Hari Raya gathering of the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Cultural and Arts Centre, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, near here, today.

He was asked to comment on a report in the New Straits Times today that the cabinet last week approved a proposal to turn Pulau Tioman into a duty-free island like Pulau Langkawi and Labuan.

The report, quoting a source, said the move was to make Pulau Tioman competitive with Pulau Batam and Bintan in attracting Singaporean tourists, up to 1.2 million of whom visited Malaysia in a month.

"Making Tioman a duty-free island will help boost tourist arrivals and receipts," the source was quoted as saying.

-- BERNAMA

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