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Seeking greater glory

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FOR a State which was once described as a sleepy hollow, historical Malacca has seen numerous development over the past two decades.

In the past, many visitors would stop over in Malacca to rest after a journey. Today, however, many will find that one day is insufficient to savour what it has to offer.

From its historical landmark and sites to its mixture of cultures and exotic food, Malacca has what it takes to attract a crowd.

Many Malaccans will attest that it was one person who started the development for Malacca, former Chief Minister Tan Sri Rahim Tambi Chik in the 1980s.

Development has continued to be the rule of the day in Malacca as not one day goes by without a new building or infrastructure springing up to complement the skyline.

In the past, tourism was the major money earner for the State; now, more emphasis is given to high-technology and manufacturing industries.

The State's emphasis on these sectors are justified as they are expected to contribute 55 per cent to the State's Gross Domestic Product by 2010.

To Chief Minister Mohd Ali Rustam, the State Government will not spare any effort to promote the State's manufacturing and tourism sectors as these are the main income for it.

One of the major projects undertaken by the State is the multi-million ringgit project to develop the Malacca International Trade Centre in Ayer Keroh.

It will house several sections of development to cater for fashion and food, the State's k-economy incubator development hub, a five-star hotel, home-living accommodation and a world-class exhibition centre covering 3,000 square metres to display local and foreign products.

Another major developmental programme is the Hang Tuah Walk project, which was modelled on Kuala Lumpur's Bintang Walk.

Hang Tuah Walk is expected to be officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October.

Mohd Ali said while the State Government develops the manufacturing industry and infrastructure, emphasis will continue to be placed on tourism.

He added that rather than concentrating on tourism, the State Government had introduced the 10 tourism sub-sectors to cater to a larger group of tourists.

The State Government had taken various steps to spruce up Malacca's features via beautification and landscaping of the city centre and its surroundings with flowers, bonsai shrubs, coconut and palm tress and decorative lights.

Judging from the State Government's efforts, it seems inevitable that Malacca will indeed achieve its target of becoming a developed State by 2010, and at the same time propelling the State to greater heights.