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TRAVEL ADVISORIES: STATE TOURISM INDUSTRY MIGHT BE AFFECTED NEXT YEAR

MELAKA, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- The effect on the tourism industry of the state of negative travel advisories might be felt next year, said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam today.

He said Melaka, whose economy depended significantly on tourism, would intensify promotions to counter these travel advisories.

"We might achieve our target to attract three million tourists this year and as at October, we have already recorded 2.4 million tourists," he told reporters here.

Mohd Ali said the figure was expected to increase for the month of November and December due to school holidays and festive seasons.

In Langkawi yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had blamed negative travel advisories for the alarming drop in tourist arrivals.

Dr Mahathir said he was disappointed with the entire affair concerning the travel advisories and it has occurred despite the country having registered a protest with countries responsible for such advisories.

The United States, Australia, Canada and Germany are among several western countries, which had issued travel advisories on the Asean region following the Bali bomb blasts.

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