

01/12/2002

PM: Travel advisories seriously affecting tourism

LANGKAWI, Sat. - Travel advisories issued by several countries warning their citizens who travel to Malaysia that they face the risk of terrorist attacks, are seriously affecting tourism arrivals.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there was not much Malaysia could do to counter such advisories except to lodge protests, which had already been done.

"I am very disappointed as these advisories have a big impact on us.

We have objected, but that is all that we can do," he said during a visit to the Gunung Machinchang cable car project.

He was commenting on reports today which said that monthly tourism arrival figures in Malaysia had dropped by up to 300,000.

On the cable car, a brainchild of the Prime Minister launched on Nov 1 linking the Oriental Village tourist, shopping and food complex to the peak of the 708-metre mountain, Dr Mahathir said he was happy to note the high number of visitors.

He later witnessed the signing of an agreement between the Langkawi Development Board (Lada) and Syarikat Prasarana Negara Berhad for the latter to manage the operations and maintenance of the cable car.

Lada was represented at the signing ceremony by its general manager, Datuk Zainal Karib Abdul Rahim, while Prasarana Negara was represented by its chief executive officer, Ridza Abdoh Salleh.