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Mahathir-Lifestyle

MALAYSIANS NEED TO CHANGE LIFESTYLE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

JOHOR BAHRU, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- Malaysians need to change their lifestyle in tangent with the level of development and sophisticated facilities available in the country, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

He said their lifestyle should reflect their degree of modernity, especially in the use of facilities provided by the government.

"We need to change our lifestyle because the old way do not allow us to use these facilities efficiently. It is pointless to have state-of-the-art facilities if we don't know how to use them. Many tourists commented the way we use certain facilities.

"We need to change. It is no use to have first class facilities when users are still on third class level. It does not present a good picture to tourists," he said when performing the ground-breaking ceremony for the Festive Street Mall project in Danga Bay here.

Also present were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and Kamarul Ariffin Sulaiman, a director of Danga Bay Sdn Berhad, the company undertaking the construction of the project.

The Prime Minister said in Malaysia many major projects were implemented to achieve the economies of scale, thereby reducing cost.

Dr Mahathir, who is also First Finance Minister, said the Danga Bay development was a major project which when completed would help to enhance the country's image.

"We want tourists from the other side (Singapore) to see not much difference between Danga Bay here and the other side," he said.

The Danga Bay project costing RM15 billion and covering 555.2 hectares was launched in May, 2000.

It will take 15 years to complete the various components of the project which included resort, commercial centre, corporate office, financial centre and tourism facilities.

The Festive Street Mall project, scheduled for completion in 2006, includes shopping centre, brand retail and family entertainment centre.

Kamarul Ariffin in his speech said land from the development of Danga Bay was used to build 1,700km of roads covering 1,500 villages in the state.

He said that because of its proximity to the sea, a marina was also planned for the project with superfoil services plying the route from Johor Baharu to Batam and Phuket.

During the function, Dr Mahathir also witnessed the signing of an agreement between Sungai Jimat Sdn and Danga Bay to develop the 1.2 million sq feet of Festive Street Mall.

-- BERNAMA

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