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Johari-Boycott

JEWISH LOBBY GROUP'S BOYCOTT CALL WILL NOT SUCCEED

MIRI, Oct 24 (Bernama) - The call by a leading US_based Jewish lobby group to American investors to boycott tourism and investment in Malaysia will not succeed, said Sarawak Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Abang Johari Openg today.

He said this was because Malaysia's tourism sector did not depend solely on American and European tourists.

"We are not concerned at all with the threat of the Jewish lobby group because Malaysia's tourism sector targets domestic and regional tourists," he said before officiating the Miri Bay Regatta.

He said the country's tourism industry was focussing on regional tourists from Australia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei and other Asian countries.

Abang Johari said efforts were also being intensified to woo tourists from West Asia to Malaysia.

He said that any boycott by American and European tourists would not cripple the country's tourism business as regional tourists formed the bulk of tourist arrivals in Malaysia.

Johari said he also doubted whether American and European tourists would heed the call.

"Being a lobby group, they will try to influence people not to come here. It doesn't mean that people will listen to them. They will fail," he said.

The influential Simon Wiesenthal Centre made the call in an apparent retaliation to Prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's remarks that the Jews ruled the world through proxy at the recent Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

The centre called on investors and tourists to avoid Malaysia until it became clear that the new Malaysian leadership did not share Dr Mahathir's views.

Dr Mahathir has since defended his view and has also received support from Muslim world leaders for his bravery in expressing his true sentiment.

-- BERNAMA

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