

13 JAN 2003

CHINA CONFIDENT M'SIA WILL BECOME A DEVELOPED COUNTRY

LANGKAWI, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- China is confident that Malaysia will become a developed country as aspired by its leadership, said Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Xu Guanhua tonight.

"Malaysia will certainly realise its Wawasan 2020 (Vision 2020) to become a developed country," he said during a return speech at a state dinner hosted by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain held in conjunction with the visit by Chinese Vice-Premier Li Lanqing to the resort island here.

Li arrived on Saturday, heading a 62-member delegation comprising government officials and media representatives for a five-day visit to Malaysia.

Tomorrow, Li is scheduled to visit Langkawi's famous landmark, Helang Square in Kuah and the RM46 million cable car service in Teluk Burau.

He said Malaysia had all it needed and the ability to develop especially with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's wisdom and inspiration.

Xu also said the changes taking place in Langkawi that had turned the resort island into a world famous destination and holiday paradise were the result of such inspiration.

Earlier, Syed Razak in his welcoming speech invited interested parties from China to participate in Kedah's development.

"There are many opportunities under the Kedah Action Plan in three strategic areas namely manufacturing, agriculture and tourism whereby smart partnership can be formed between foreign and local investors," he added.

-- BERNAMA

NH AO