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Mahathir-Marina

DR MAHATHIR HAPPY WITH PROGRESS OF TELAGA HARBOUR PARK PROJECT

LANGKAWI, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today toured the Telaga Harbour Park yacht marina project in Pantai Kok here and expressed satisfaction over the progress of its implementation.

He said that foreign yacht owners had already made inquiries and showed keen interest in the proposed marina.

"Foreigners have now started to inquire on facilities at the proposed marina. We will have the various facilities there like the Customs, police, immigration, hotels and petrol station," he told reporters after the inspection tour in conjunction with the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2003 (Lima '03).

The Telaga Harbour Park, the fourth marina in Langkawi which can accommodate 100 yachts at any one time, will include a commercial complex and a three-star hotel with apartments.

The project is undertaken by a group of private companies on a 12-ha site at a cost of RM40 million.

The petrol station, marina and commercial complex built under its first phase have been completed and already in operations.

Dr Mahathir, who has been in Langkawi since Tuesday to open Lima '03, on his arrival in Pantai Kok, inspected the boat belonging to the Fire and Rescue Department and had breakfast in front of the commercial complex.

He later toured the Telaga Harbour Park project and was briefed by the project's advisor, national sailor Datuk Azhar Mansor.

He also boarded the ferry 'Lady Yasmin' to inspect the waters off Pantai Kok. The 'Lady Yasmin', belonging to Yasmin Marine Technologies Sdn Bhd, operates in Johor.

Meanwhile, Azhar told reporters after Dr Mahathir's tour that the marina began operations on Sept 15.

He said that double-storey shophouses built along the Mediterranean concept as well as restaurants, a petrol station and a bank had also begun operations while construction of a three-star hotel would commence next month.

"The Telaga Harbour Park offers facilities on par with marinas in other parts of the world," he said.

Fire and Rescue Department Deputy Director-General (Operations) Datuk Hamzah Abu Bakar also told reporters after Dr Mahathir's visit that the department would be equipped with five new boats, for fire-fighting, search and rescue operations and to monitor oil spills.

He said that the 11-metre boats, built by Destination Marine Services Sdn Bhd costing RM1.8 million each, were undergoing test runs and expected to be in operations by year-end. The boats will be stationed along the coastal areas and the various islands like Langkawi and Tioman.

"The acquisition will further boost the capability of the department's Sea Rescue Unit which is now manned by 450 divers and equipped with 100 rescue boats and 200 high-powered jet skis," he said.

Hamzah said that 30 officers had been trained to operate the new boats. Each boat will be handled by four officers and equipped with 500-litre foam tanks, 100-litre water tanks, pumps with a capacity of 2,000 litres per minute and spray capacity of 70 metres.

The boats are named Dolphine (Dolphin), Todak (Square-tail Alligator Gar), Merlin (Marlin), Sting Ray and Selayang (Round Scad).

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