

22 JUN 2003

Mahathir-Langkawi

DR MAHATHIR INSPECTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN LANGKAWI

LANGKAWI, June 22 (Bernama) -- While many people expected Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to take a one-day rest after the Umno general assembly yesterday, he was here today inspecting various development projects on this island resort.

The prime minister arrived last night just after the assembly ended in Kuala Lumpur and was up and driving around in a four-wheel drive vehicle this morning to view the progress of several projects around Langkawi.

Asked at a media conference yesterday what he would do after the assembly, he said: "Rest, so don't disturb me tomorrow."

Today, when speaking to reporters at the airport here after his visit, he said he was confident that all the projects that are being implemented in Langkawi would proceed well after his retirement in October.

He said his successor would definitely give attention to these projects to ensure their success in efforts to make Langkawi a popular tourist resort at the international level.

Dr Mahathir said he strove not only to develop Langkawi island but also other areas like Pulau Tioman.

"Langkawi was given attention because it has great potential to lure both local and foreign tourists," he said.

Asked whether he had any more ideas on developing the island, he said: "Let others think of new ideas."

On whether he would continue to visit the island after his retirement, he said he would, and this time it would be for total rest.

"I will definitely visit Langkawi after retiring because I want to rest like other people," he said.

Among the development projects that Dr Mahathir visited was the RM40 million Mediterranean-style Langkawi Harbour Park project at Burau Bay which will have a marina that can accommodate 100 yachts as well as hotel facilities and a housing estate.

He inspected the progress of the construction of two new blocks to the Galeria Perdana in Jalan Ayer Hangat.

The construction started in February last year and is expected to be completed end of this year. The new blocks will house a surau, souvenir shops, a cafeteria, a laboratory and an auditorium that can seat 150 people.

The new buildings will enable the souvenirs presented to the prime minister to be displayed in a more attractive and systematic manner.

Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, had lunch on board a ship berthed at the Wavemaster Langkawi, a repair and refurbishment centre for luxury boats and yachts, in Tanjung Lembong.

-- BERNAMA

MZM MAI JK