

23 JUN 2003

Langkawi-Mahathir

LANGKAWI WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP, PM ASSURES RESIDENTS

LANGKAWI, June 23 (Bernama) -- Langkawi will continue to develop as an international tourist destination even after Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad steps down as prime minister in October.

The local residents were happy with the Dr Mahathir's assurance that his successor Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would focus on Langkawi and other projects nationwide.

Kampung Sungai Menghulu Security and Development Committee secretary Hadnan Ismail said Dr Mahathir would not allow Langkawi's development to be abandoned as he was the prime mover behind the project.

Hadnan said the people here were proud of Dr Mahathir's interest in the island as Langkawi was now a world-renowned holiday destination.

Langkawi Taxi Owners and Rented Car Drivers Association chairman Yusof Abdullah said Langkawi was very different in the days before Dr Mahathir took an interest in it.

"We hope he will continue to pay close attention when he is no longer the prime minister," Yusof said adding that Langkawi also contributed to the growth of the economy and the tourism industry.

Bukit Tunggal Rukun Tetangga chairman Tuah Daim also expressed his confidence that Langkawi's future was bright.

Langkawi was also known in the world for its world-class activities such as the Langkawi International Maritime and Air (Lima) Exhibition, Le Tour de Langkawi cycling championship, and the Langkawi Malaysia Ironman Triathlon.

-- BERNAMA

ZI NH PC