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Abdullah-Langkawi

LADA MUST DEVELOP MORE PROJECTS INVOLVING LOCALS, SAYS ABDULLAH

PUTRAJAYA, June 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wants the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) to develop more investment and commercial projects involving the locals in Langkawi.

The prime minister said that maximum involvement of the locals in Lada's development projects would enable them to savour the benefits and profits from the projects.

He told reporters this after chairing a meeting with 12 members of the Lada board of directors at his office here.

During the 90-minute meeting, Abdullah expressed the hope that Lada would take advantage of the increase in tourist arrivals to Pulau Langkawi to enhance the income of the locals through tourism-related projects.

"Their (tourists) presence will not only profit the hotels but I believe that the tourists who go there will visit the places of interest and eateries (run by local residents).

"I'm not saying that there are no projects for the people now. Don't think that it's only being done now. There already are (such projects) but what I'm stressing is to increase such programmes to balance the development of hotels and other projects," he said.

Abdullah said today's meeting of the Lada board was the first to be chaired by him since his appointment as prime minister in October last year.

He acknowledged that Langkawi had developed rapidly to become the world-rekknowned island resort that it is today.

"Since the establishment of Lada under its then chairman, Tun Daim (Zainuddin), and now the new chairman, Tun Dr Mahathir (Mohamad), I acknowledge that the development in Langkawi has been rapid.

"It is now known throughout the world with the number of tourists increasing annually," he said.

The prime minister said that with the high standard that it had achieved, Lada should strive to further improve the quality of its

service
to ensure that it would continue to be reknowned with even more
fantastic
attractions.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ RON JK