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Mahathir-Langkawi

MAHATHIR SAYS LANGKAWI IN SAME LEAGUE AS PHUKET, BALI

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Langkawi is now in the same league as two of the foremost tourist spots in the region, Phuket in Thailand and Bali in Indonesia, said former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Langkawi, besides being of the same standard as Phuket and Bali, also has unique attractions.

Dr Mahathir, who was the prime mover in turning Langkawi into a global tourist destination, said the number of visitors flocking to the island proved its potential to be a world-class holiday resort.

"In the beginning when we wanted to make Langkawi a tourist island, we only hoped to build some small hotels and not huge marinas.

"But because of the demand, we had to provide more advanced facilities," he said in an interview for a 12-part special report on Langkawi which will be broadcast in the "Warta Perdana" slot on RTM's TV1 from tomorrow.

According to a statement by RTM today, Dr Mahathir said continued development on the island brought many benefits to its residents.

The special report, titled 'Langkawi...the seven-generation curse', will trace Langkawi's development from a backwater to a famous tourism and investment centre in the region.

Legend has it that Mahsuri, a Malay princess, had cursed the island that it would remain backward for seven generations after she was wrongfully punished for adultery.

Uncannily, the island began its rapid development to what it is today after the passage of seven generations of its people.

-- BERNAMA

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